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President: Mr. Oh Joon (Vice-President) ..... (Republic of Korea)

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Commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development

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In the absence of Mr. Sajdik (Austria), Mr. Oh Joon (Republic of Korea), Vice-President, took the chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

Commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development

Opening statement by the President of the Economic and Social Council

1. **The President** said that the theme of the meeting was "The political meaning of the World Social Summit in the contemporary world". The World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen in 1995 and attended by over 14,000 participants, including delegates from 186 countries and some 810 non-governmental organizations (NGOs), had been one of the largest summits in history. At that Summit, known as the Social Summit, Member States had adopted a new social contract at the global level — the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action — which put people at the centre of development and was still one of the most comprehensive and inclusive action plans for achieving social development.

2. Building upon a series of world summits and international conferences held in the 1990s on issues requiring global solidarity, such as human rights, the environment and food security, Member States had adopted the Millennium Development Goals in 2000, with a view to translating those shared visions into goals with concrete targets. The Social Summit had been one of the major building blocks in establishing the Millennium Development Goals, and the integrated approach it advocated had contributed to the common understanding of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and the need for their balanced integration. Over the past 20 years, Member States had learned that economic and social development and the well-being of all people and the planet were interrelated and mutually reinforcing. The Economic and Social Council was mandated to identify emerging challenges, to promote reflection, debate and innovative thinking, and to achieve a balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development.

3. The Council was committed to carrying out that work in 2015 and beyond, keeping the lessons of the pioneers of social development in mind. On the eve of the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, the commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the Social Summit was an opportunity to reflect upon the origins of the United Nations development agenda.

Keynote addresses

4. **The Deputy Secretary-General** said that the commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development was an opportunity for reflection on progress and experiences to date, as well as on remaining challenges and the road ahead. Twenty years ago at the Summit in Copenhagen — the largest-ever gathering of world leaders at the time — an important conceptual consensus had been reached. That consensus had helped to shape the development pathway to the present day.

5. At the Summit, it had been agreed that the human being must be placed at the centre of development efforts in the spirit of the first three words of the Charter of the United Nations, "We the peoples". Member States had pledged to make the conquest of poverty, the goal of full employment and the fostering of social integration the overriding objectives of development. Those objectives set in Copenhagen in 1995 had deep roots in decades of thinking on how to effectively integrate the social, economic and environmental dimensions of development to ensure not only sustainable growth, but also dignity and justice for all. He recalled lively discussions on that topic in the early 1990s with his friend and colleague Juan Somavía, a driving and creative force behind the Summit who would speak to the Council later in the meeting.

6. Poverty eradication, employment and social integration were still basic requirements if people were to live their lives in security and dignity, and in full exercise of their human rights. Those elements had been clearly and loudly echoed in 2012 and in efforts since then to shape a transformative post-2015 development agenda.

7. He said that 2015 was a milestone for the United Nations — a year of global action for inclusive, equitable and sustainable development. Member States should look at what had been achieved to date and what remained to be done in promoting social progress, inclusion and social justice. Progress had been made. A smaller proportion of the world's people now lived in extreme poverty than 15 years ago. More people lived

longer and healthier lives. The world had seen important advances in health and education.

8. Yet, more than a billion people still lived in extreme poverty. Inequality tended to be systemic and was in many cases widening to an alarming degree. Economic opportunities for women and girls were lacking in far too many places. Environmental degradation and climate change threatened the basis of healthy lives and even the very survival of the species. Humankind certainly did not live in peace and harmony with nature, endangering the lives of future generations.

9. Unemployment remained high — and, not least, the world's youth were bearing the brunt. Globally, as many as 73 million young people were looking for jobs. Young people were three times more likely than adults to be unemployed. Many more were trapped in jobs where they were objects of exploitation. When young people felt frustration and anger at a glaring lack of opportunity, they were more likely to lose faith in government and in institutions. In many parts of the world, that left young people receptive and vulnerable to marginalization and radicalization. Related to that lack of opportunity was the current alarming growth in extremism. The principle and practice of social integration and the peaceful coexistence of cultures and communities were increasingly under threat in the contemporary world.

10. Delegates at the World Summit for Social Development 20 years ago had affirmed that poverty eradication, full employment and social integration were closely interlinked. That rang even more relevant and true in the contemporary world. That was why a new set of sustainable development goals which were universal, people-centred and cross-cutting in nature were needed.

11. As everyone knew, after the Sendai Conference in Japan in March, three major international decision-making processes stood before the United Nations in 2015: the third International Conference on Financing for Development, in Addis Ababa, in July; the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, in New York, in September; and the United Nations Climate Change Conference, in Paris, in December. As had been the case with the development conferences of the 1990s, the outcomes of those key meetings would affect global political, economic, social and environmental priorities and policies for many, many years to come. Those processes must complement and support each other. People's needs, rights and aspirations were the glue that should bind together all development efforts at the local, national, regional and international levels.

12. In Copenhagen in 1995, the critical importance of adopting an integrated approach to development had been highlighted and Member States had been encouraged to be mindful of the interaction between the agreements reached and reminded of the impact of those interactions on people's ability to live meaningful, secure and dignified lives. The year 2015 presented an historic test and challenge for the international community and national institutions embarking on a voyage of transformative change that would affect all sectors of society. That change must be built on universality, sustainability and acceptance of interdependence as a win-win proposition for both nations and people. The experience of the past two decades — and, in particular, the years of the Millennium Development Goals — had shown the potential of a true global pact for development. As the international community strengthened and reinforced its combined commitment to achieve a life of dignity for all, the lessons of the past should be used to ensure a better future for all. No one must be left behind on that common voyage.

13. **Mr. Frei** (former President of Chile) said that, as President of Chile, he had attended the Social Summit in 1995, which had been the brainchild of his predecessor, Patricio Aylwin, and a valuable contribution by his country to the common good. Another Chilean, Ambassador and former ILO Director-General Juan Somavía, had served as Chair of the Preparatory Committee for the Summit. In 1995, Chile had just begun to consolidate its democracy and re-establish contacts with the rest of the world. The Summit had been a way to repay the solidarity the international community had shown the Chilean people during the dictatorship.

14. His country was no stranger to the recalcitrant and difficult problem of poverty, and had experience in drastically reducing poverty levels. The issues addressed at the Social Summit had been areas of particular interest to his Government and, throughout his political career, he had advocated a political order that combined democracy and social justice. At the Summit, he had called on participants to reach a new ethical and moral consensus, based on a spirit of

cooperation and equality, on the development model to follow. That invitation remained open.

15. The Social Summit had been the largest-ever gathering of world leaders in history, where the broadest and most inclusive agreement on social development had been signed, in response to a global economic model that had forgotten people. The Social Summit had marked the first global reaction to the dominance of neoliberalism and put people at the centre of the global agenda. The Washington Consensus had run its course and many people had been starting to rethink the concept of development, based on the transformation of production structures in a context of growing social equality.

16. It had been evident from various indicators that serious imbalances, namely poverty, unemployment and social exclusion, which affected a considerable number of countries, must be redressed urgently. The Social Summit had been a response to those concerns and the first step to promoting an economic model that could create greater equality, social cohesion and respect for human dignity and the environment. That model had aimed not only to improve economic performance, but also to promote greater social efficiency and safeguard citizens' rights.

17. The Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development was a true reflection of those intentions. Governments had been urged to adopt credible public policies to tackle poverty, the lack of productive employment and social disintegration, as they would only be seen to be trustworthy if citizens' needs were prioritized. Social development required public policies that corrected market failures, complemented trade mechanisms, maintained social stability and created an economic environment conducive to sustainable growth — one that promoted equality, social justice, tolerance, responsibility and the participation of all citizens.

18. Member States must now ask themselves whether they had given expression to the Programme of Action in their economic and social policies. His country had significantly reduced incidences of poverty and extreme poverty by boosting economic growth, maintaining rigorous fiscal management and significantly increasing public investment in the poorest sectors through well-designed and properly targeted social programmes. However, the task was far from accomplished. The current Government was promoting a series of initiatives, including tax and education reforms, to reduce social inequalities. While Latin America was the region that had seen the biggest reduction in poverty and inequality, it also remained the most unequal. Indeed, 10 of the 15 countries in the world where inequality was most pronounced were in Latin America, and 28 per cent of Latin Americans lived in poverty, the same number as before the 2008 global financial crisis. Governments had failed to use the revenues generated by the recent commodities boom and influx of foreign capital to strengthen social protection policies that could reduce vulnerability to economic cycles.

19. In order to create healthy, fair, ethical and cohesive societies, progress must be accompanied by a redistribution policy. A new fiscal pact was needed, with a tax reform that went to the heart of the problem and would improve the distribution of income. Without such reform, growth could not ensure the well-being of the whole population. Reducing poverty and reducing inequality were not one and the same; neither were development and economic growth. Achieving a balance was one of the greatest challenges facing the region.

20. Citizens were more politically aware than they had been 20 years ago. In addition to poverty, other factors, such as abuses by big business, tax evasion and corruption, were fomenting and perpetuating social inequalities and vulnerabilities. The values and objectives of the Copenhagen Summit remained pertinent. While real progress had been made, much remained to be done to achieve satisfactory levels of equitable growth that would allow governments to regain the trust of their citizens. The fight against poverty and inequality would require ethical and moral sustenance. Calls for action would grow louder and louder unless governments had the capacity and political will to eradicate injustice.

Panel discussion: "Impact of the World Social Summit on the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda"

21. **Ms. Miculescu** (Romania), moderator, said that the panel discussion would offer an opportunity to reflect upon social development, which was a crucial element of sustainable development. Twenty years ago, nations had gathered in Copenhagen to recognize the significance of social development. The resulting Declaration and Programme of Action, based on earlier

agreements, were the broadest-ever set of norms and explicit commitments to guide action on social development at the national, regional and international levels. However, 20 years later, those commitments to eradicate poverty, promote full employment and foster social integration, based on the enhancement and protection of all human rights, remained relevant because they had not been fulfilled, despite progress in some areas.

22. In the run-up to the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda in September 2015, Member States should build on the outcome documents of the Social Summit when considering the importance of social development within the paradigm of sustainable development.

23. **Mr. Donoghue** (Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations), panellist, said that, as Member States prepared for the final stages of the negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the current discussion was an opportune moment for reflection. As co-facilitator of the negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda, he noted that it was a very challenging time, but also a moment of great opportunity and responsibility, as Member States neared the culmination of their work on financing for development and the post-2015 development agenda.

24. For the past 20 years, the outcome of the Social Summit had greatly influenced the social development agenda and had been critical to the work leading to the upcoming summit on the post-2015 development agenda. Many of the objectives of the Social Summit had inspired the Millennium Development Goals, notably the Goals to halve the number of people living in extreme poverty, promote gender parity in access to primary education and ensure full and productive employment. The 2002 Monterrey Consensus, with its focus on addressing some of the structural barriers to human development, was also part of the legacy of the Social Summit.

25. Twenty years after the adoption of the Copenhagen Declaration, and 15 years after the adoption of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, progress had been made in many areas, including combating malaria and HIV/AIDS and increasing access to clean drinking water. Still, the fact that over one in five people in developing countries continued to live in extreme poverty and the high levels of youth unemployment revealed the enormous challenges countries faced in realizing the objectives set out in Copenhagen. The Millennium Development Goals had not fully addressed all of those objectives. The progress on gender equality under the Millennium Development Goals had not been sufficiently transformative. The focus on aggregate progress had distorted results and overlooked the situation of the most vulnerable people in society. The absence of ambitious economic and governance goals meant that some of the fundamental prerequisites for social development had not been addressed. The overall approach of the Millennium Development Goals, which had inadvertently promoted silos over integration and single issues over broader methods, meant that the Goals had often addressed the symptoms rather than the root causes of poverty and inequality. The resources and means needed to implement the Millennium Development Goals had also not been addressed in detail early enough in the process.

26. With just four months until the summit in New York and the adoption of the new post-2015 development agenda, it was clear from the zero draft of the agenda, which had been circulated recently, that it embodied many of the objectives set out at the Social Summit and sought to learn from the past. The zero draft presented an integrated sustainable development agenda that would be universally applicable and emphasized national ownership and differentiation. It focused on ending poverty and hunger, but also included a strong commitment to addressing the needs of the most vulnerable, by emphasizing that access to basic services should be universal, no one should be left behind and data should be disaggregated. The new sustainable development goals addressed traditional social development issues, such as food and nutrition security, education, water and sanitation, and health, and sought to integrate the social, environmental and economic dimensions of development across all 17 goals. Recognizing the need to address the root causes of the world's social, economic and environmental problems, a number of the proposed goals focused on issues such as gender equality, peaceful societies, sustainable consumption and production, and inequalities between and within States.

27. The proposed new goals and targets were very ambitious; however, that ambition was commensurate with the changes needed to end poverty in a generation, combat inequalities, promote shared

prosperity and universal peace, and protect and preserve the planet. A comprehensive approach was needed to address all of those challenges to humanity; the goals and targets reflected that. He hoped that it would be possible to maintain that level of ambition and imagination until the end of the negotiation process. As Member States entered the final stages of the negotiations, set in motion by the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), the main focus would be on adopting an overarching declaration to accompany the sustainable development goals and targets, which captured the ambition and the transformative nature of the agenda in a manner that was easily understood by the general public and inspiring to all.

28 With regard to the means of implementation, some 60 targets had already been agreed, but success would depend on whether the Addis Ababa Conference could produce an ambitious and overarching development financing framework to complement those targets and to mobilize the resources and technology needed to achieve sustainable development. Lastly, a follow-up and review framework would have to be devised. Member States generally agreed that it would be necessary to maximize the effectiveness and coherence of existing oversight architecture, including the Council, the General Assembly and the high-level political forum on sustainable development. Functional commissions would, no doubt, also play a role.

29. There was a lot of work ahead, but negotiations were scheduled to be successfully concluded by 31 July 2015. Everyone hoped that the resulting agenda would capture the spirit of the Social Summit and help to transform the world over the next 15 years.

30. **Mr. Somavía** (Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Interregional Policy Cooperation), panellist, who had served as Chair of both the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit on Social Development and the Main Committee of the Summit, said that the work undertaken since 2012 on "The future we want" and the post-2015 development agenda had recaptured some of the spirit and political dynamism of the summits and conferences of the 1990s, including the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (the Earth Summit), the Fourth World Conference on Women and the Social Summit. The outcome documents of those conferences and summits had set out the concepts of sustainable development, based on three interrelated pillars, and had required Member States to examine the underlying root causes and structural issues behind poverty and inequality. More importantly, the Social Summit had put people back at the heart of development.

31. The supremely ambitious vision contained in the zero draft of the post-2015 development agenda was a sound basis for negotiations and represented the first integrated sustainable development agenda. With 17 goals and 169 indicators, it went far beyond the Millennium Development Goals, which, unlike the outcome documents of the 1990s summits, had not been universal or targeted structural issues. The political will to move ahead on those fundamental issues was now in place.

32. The integration of the three pillars of sustainable development had been discussed for many years, but it had not been achieved. While it was a desirable goal, it was likely that many Member States, not just least developed countries, would turn to the United Nations for assistance to implement the new sustainable development goals, for which the Organization would require additional resources. While the United Nations certainly had the capacity and expertise for integrated thinking, it had not yet identified all the interactions and interrelationships between environmental, social and economic considerations. Once it did identify how to integrate the three pillars, the Organization must explain the method clearly; otherwise stakeholders would continue to implement the same sectoral approach as in the past.

33. The United Nations Secretariat, specialized agencies, funds and programmes, regional commissions, and the multiple networks of external experts should work together to make the integration of the three pillars of development possible. The knowledge was there and it was to be hoped that the impetus would come from the post-2015 development agenda and the declaration that would be adopted at the New York summit. The integration process should be launched as soon as possible, as it would take some time and promised to be very complex. The Council and the General Assembly should provide oversight. Integration of the economic, social and environmental elements of development would require a clear understanding of the need to balance the markets, the State, society and the individual.

34. Since the Earth Summit and the Social Summit, the global economy had continued to grow and become

even more integrated, with all the advantages and disadvantages that stemmed from globalization. Failure to integrate the economic, social and environmental aspects of development would be regrettable; national policies must not continue to focus on the economy to the detriment of social and environmental considerations. The road ahead would be difficult, especially as there were many interests in the world that would like to see the status quo continue and would warn against interfering with existing economic policies.

35. According to a survey that spanned the period 1995-2014, confidence and trust in the United Nations had decreased significantly in recent years. The manner in which the sustainable development goals and objectives were presented to the general public would therefore be crucial. Citing paragraph 23 of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, he said that citizens' waning trust in — and increasing sentiment of distance from — the world's governance systems and the United Nations must be acknowledged and addressed. The regional commissions offered a link between global and local considerations. The Council should ensure that the United Nations system utilized the regional commissions to translate the global agenda into national and regional policies.

36. People were calling for a more representative and participatory democracy. National governments were addressing those demands in different ways, but it was worrying that the voice of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the traditional representatives of society, had been diminished within the United Nations and that international matters were increasingly being decided by governments alone, without input from social actors. That ran counter to processes at the national level. NGOs must therefore continue to be heard and to play a key role in discussions at the international level, particularly in 2015.

37. **Ms. Mejía Vélez** (Colombia), panellist, said that she had participated in the Social Summit in Copenhagen in 1995 and witnessed the emergence of a collective will to place social development at the heart of national and international policies. Above all, the Summit had made human beings the focus of development activities to eradicate poverty, promote full employment and repair the social fabric. The decision to refer to "people living in poverty" rather than the "poor" in United Nations documents had been a major achievement during the preparations for the Social Summit and had helped to humanize the issue of poverty.

38. The Copenhagen Declaration addressed the same issues that were being discussed in 2015: gender equality, full employment, universal access to education and health, and the need to mobilize new financial resources in order to create an enabling environment for development. Despite the impact of the Social Summit, the coherence needed to realize the global targets identified at the Summit had not been achieved in public policies at the national, regional and international levels. The ambitious proposed sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda, which represented a new ethical and moral consensus, were part of the legacy of the Social Summit.

39. Five years after the Social Summit, Member States had adopted the Millennium Development Goals, with an important, but overdue, development road map. Her country had not begun implementing its national development plan to achieve the Millennium Development Goals until six years after their adoption. Despite the cross-cutting nature of the Goals, Member States had not been able to achieve them in full. Latin America and the Caribbean had made great efforts to reduce poverty, but, notably, levels of extreme poverty and inequality had increased in some countries in the region.

40. The post-2015 development agenda was an historic opportunity to transform the world. She agreed that regional organizations and the economic commissions should work with countries to implement national development plans. Their extensive knowledge of local issues would be very useful in implementing the post-2015 development agenda.

41. The international community was at a turning point: the ambitious platform that had first been outlined at the Social Summit would not be achieved unless there was a clear commitment by all stakeholders to provide adequate and predictable means of implementation, and unless the United Nations system was up to the task. An agreement to provide adequate and predictable means of implementation must therefore be reached at the Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa next month. Without it, the new development agenda would be nothing but rhetoric. The United

Nations system must also adapt by breaking down silos and following the Council's lead in reforming working methods.

42. Greater national coherence would also be needed in countries like hers, which had 26 development agencies, funds and programmes. Efforts must be more coordinated, particularly on a regional level, and a global follow-up and review mechanism must be created. Political support for the Statistical Commission, which was drawing up the sustainable development goal indicators, would also be fundamental. A few days earlier, the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators had held its first meeting with the various regional institutions that would report on the progress made in implementing the new sustainable development goals. The Council should continue to oversee the process of selecting the indicators, as a method for quantifying implementation had been one of the lacunae in the previous development agenda. While meetings and summits had been very important for reviewing progress, a monitoring mechanism of some kind was needed to ensure universal accountability. The challenges facing the United Nations system and Member States in implementing the new agenda were considerable, but not insurmountable.

43. **Mr. Bissio** (Coordinator of the International Secretariat of Social Watch), panellist, said that he had attended the Social Summit and the preparations that had begun in 1993, and recalled that at the end of the Summit, Mr. Somavía had told the representatives of civil society organizations that the enormous public and private resources available must be used according to new human priorities. That was still true.

44. It was the job of civil society to demand more from governments, particularly on those issues where more could be done. Upon examining the outcome documents of the Social Summit, civil society organizations had been disappointed to find that only around 70 per cent of their demands had been met. However, they had consoled themselves with the fact that the Copenhagen Declaration called for the creation of a political environment that would enable the international community to achieve the many ambitious goals it had set for itself, including poverty eradication, gender equality and full employment. The Social Summit had also focused on redesigning structural adjustment programs in order to protect people living in poverty and the most vulnerable members of society from reductions in social expenditure, a key reform that civil society organizations had advocated. Unlike today, 1995 had been a time of great hope for humanity.

45. Every year since 1995, civil society organizations had reported on the progress made towards achieving those goals. Nonetheless, it was evident that some of the core values of the Social Summit had been lost and that the priorities established in the Millennium Development Goals had taken over the development agenda. That had been an unfortunate decision and might explain why many ordinary people perceived a disconnect between the United Nations and the aspirations of people and social movements in many countries. The method of assessing the success of the Millennium Development Goals had also probably discouraged some of the least developed countries and disincentivized high-performing countries. Those shortcomings should be borne in mind when deciding upon the monitoring mechanism for the new sustainable development goals.

46. Civil society organizations were very pleased to see that some of the key ideas endorsed at the Social Summit, such as universality, social protection floors and tackling inequality, figured in the post-2015 development agenda. Member States should now focus on the means of implementation to ensure that those ideas would become reality. To that end, specific indicators of inequality should be adopted to measure the impact of the new sustainable development goals, and Member States should make a clear financial commitment to institute and fund social protection floors, including cash transfers; benefits for children, the unemployed, women on maternity leave and persons with disabilities; pensions for older persons; and social security. Today, as in 1995, the resources were available.

47. After the 2008 financial crisis, trillions of dollars had been rapidly mobilized to save financial institutions, including some which had since been found guilty of crimes, and yet nothing had been done about banks that were too big to fail and too big to jail. While each country should address that problem through taxation and fiscal policy, in a globalized world, international collaboration was needed to enforce fair taxation within national borders without. Proposals like the Tobin tax, which could help to regulate financial markets and to generate resources,

should be adopted. The analysis contained in the 2014 Social Watch report, entitled "Means and Ends", might also be helpful, as it examined the goals for humanity, the means available to achieve them and the inequalities that stood in the way.

48. The ambition and breadth of the sustainable development goals was inspiring, but Member States must learn lessons from the Social Summit and the Millennium Development Goals with regard to implementation, the integration of the three pillars of development and follow-up and review mechanisms. There would be difficulties to overcome, but Member States must report on their progress in implementing the post-2015 development agenda, even on a voluntary basis, and be assessed as part of a system of peer review. Those reports must be public so that civil society could participate in and comment on the review. Such a mechanism would mobilize the necessary political will to make the financial resources available to implement the agenda. No country in the world could claim to be sustainably developed. While modern-day problems and capacities might be different from those of 1995, the responsibilities and challenges were still common to all Member States.

Interactive discussion

49. **Ms. Perceval** (Argentina) said that the commemoration of the Copenhagen Summit was particularly timely, coinciding as it did with the preparations for the third International Conference on Financing for Development, the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda and the Paris Climate Change Conference. She had attended the Social Summit as an NGO representative. Rather than setting out targeted policies, the message of the Summit had been that no one should be left behind. The Social Summit was proof of what could be achieved. Member States were currently working hard to reach agreements that would meet the challenges facing the world today. The goals that would be adopted were not merely lofty ideals; they were imperative for the survival of civilization, humanity and the planet. Although it had been said many times, she wished to repeat a very serious warning: the future of the planet was at risk and it was unjustifiable that so many people were still living in poverty.

50. The outcome of the Addis Ababa Conference would be particularly significant. Financing for development commitments should be set out in concrete agreements in order to increase the resources available for development. Official development assistance (ODA) was an important element of financing for development; developed countries should honour their commitment to contribute 0.7 per cent of their gross national product to ODA. Steps should also be taken to increase, encourage and develop South-South and triangular cooperation, not with the aim of replacing North-South cooperation, but rather to encourage greater balance among States, civil society, the market and individuals. Such cooperation would also complement Member States' equal but differentiated responsibilities.

51. While the Millennium Development Goals had been a laudable wish list, they had lacked a systematic approach and dedicated resources for implementation. A monitoring mechanism would have helped to identify problems and promote transparency and accountability, as well as the genuine participation of the State, the market and civil society in the process. Recent advances in information and communications technology would make a reporting mechanism for the new sustainable development goals much more feasible. Perhaps the panellists could cite other aspects of sustainable development that had been overlooked by the Millennium Development Goals.

52. With regard to the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, regional development banks and other regional stakeholders, such as the economic commissions, should be the primary linkages and coordinators between the global agenda and local needs. The international financial system must also be re-examined and the global financial architecture reformed in order to create a more favourable global environment for development. It was not a question of overthrowing capitalism, but of giving capitalism a human face and putting the multilateral financial system at the service of development. Moreover, the international financial system should reflect the relative weight of the economies of developing countries and take that into account when considering which macroeconomic policies to impose. Fair, equitable and transparent mechanisms should be adopted for restructuring sovereign debt, an issue that affected even developed countries.

53. Capital flight, tax evasion and other fiscal matters must also be tackled at the international level if sustainable development was to be achieved. Steps

should therefore be taken to eliminate bank secrecy and tax havens, and to regulate the practices of hedge funds. President Frei had referred to the effect of trading in commodities on development, the reduction in poverty and the narrowing of inequalities in Latin America. However, according to a recent report by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean on the reduction in poverty and improvements in inequality in the region, those achievements were the result of comprehensive policies, from social security floors to free and universally accessible, quality education and health care, and steps to control speculative capital flows, which had hindered development activities in developing and least developed countries.

54. Alternatives should also be found to credit risk assessments for developing countries and infrastructure projects, which were often funded by national governments or short-term development assistance. Many roads in the developing world had been paved with good intentions; it was time for the global system to step up and finance the ideals that it advocated. It was not enough to talk about a better, fairer and more equitable world for everyone; Member States should seize opportunities to examine the taboos and difficulties facing the world today.

55. **Mr. Köhler** (Observer for the European Union) said that the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action represented a unique consensus on key social development objectives, highlighting the need for a holistic approach to achieve those objectives. The twentieth anniversary of the Social Summit coincided with a decisive moment for the United Nations. Despite recent progress, the world and its inhabitants still faced formidable challenges. In the light of persistent poverty, unemployment, poor working conditions and human rights abuses around the world, the Social Summit and its outcome documents were undoubtedly still relevant and valid. The post-2015 development agenda presented an opportunity to address those challenges. His delegation was committed to working tirelessly for its implementation and for the attainment of future development goals and targets.

56. In order to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development, a new global partnership was needed to transform and strengthen international cooperation, and achieve social development in the spirit of the Copenhagen Declaration. As the European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour had explained during the integration segment of the Economic and Social Council in March 2015, full and productive employment and decent work were vital to addressing inequality and social exclusion and, as such, should be key components for the implementation of the new post-2015 development agenda.

57. **Ms. Bodenmann** (Switzerland) noted that progress made since 1995 had been precarious. Despite growth and job creation, made possible by globalization and technological advances, growth had often been accompanied by inequalities within and between countries. Unemployment remained a universal phenomenon while access to decent jobs was in no way universal. The full implementation of the objectives adopted in Copenhagen and subsequently at the Millennium Summit of the United Nations was strategically important.

58. Economic growth, while a necessary condition, was not in itself sufficient to create sustainable development; yet sustainable development, with its social, economic and environmental dimensions, was essential to reducing global poverty. As the Secretary-General had pointed out in his report on rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world (E/CN.5/2015/3), poverty was found everywhere, even in industrialized countries, where it had become more noticeable in recent years among particular segments of the population, such as women, young people and single-parent families. Migrants and minorities were also particularly vulnerable.

59. Employment was a source of stability and a key factor in eliminating poverty. Integration into the labour market, under decent conditions, was an important aspect of economic empowerment. Her Government therefore favoured a vocational education and training system, attuned to the needs of the economy, to integrate people into the labour force. It had also implemented a macroeconomic framework and policies that were conducive to creating gainful employment and to achieving full employment, and a legal framework that guaranteed decent working conditions and helped employment to become a driver of development and economic empowerment.

60. The post-2015 development agenda offered a unique opportunity to merge the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development

and thus ensure a holistic approach, both nationally and internationally. Every effort must be made to ensure that all regions of the world could meet those objectives.

61. **Mr. Pinheiro** (Observer for the International Labour Organization (ILO)) said that it had been at the Social Summit that Member States had first pledged to eradicate poverty and defined concepts such as rights at work, full and productive employment and social protection, ideas that would form the basis for the ILO Decent Work Agenda. The Decent Work Agenda, which had been the brainchild of Mr. Somavía, was being implemented through four strategic objectives: promoting jobs; guaranteeing rights at work; extending social protection; and promoting social dialogue. Mr. Somavía had also been instrumental in shaping many concrete development initiatives, including the focus on the social dimension of globalization, social protection floors, the Global Jobs Pact and the Call for Action on Youth Employment.

62. He asked Mr. Donoghue whether, given the importance of the Social Summit in shaping the sustainable development agenda, Member States would consider including a reference to the Social Summit in the post-2015 declaration. Lastly, in a hypothetical situation where Mr. Somavía could include one additional paragraph in the Copenhagen Declaration, what would that paragraph be?

63. **Mr. Donoghue** (Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations) said that it would be reasonable to include a reference to the Social Summit in the post-2015 declaration. He would discuss it with his colleagues, but it would be up to Member States to consider and decide upon the proposal, bearing in mind that the declaration should not be overly long.

64. **Mr. Somavía** (Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Interregional Policy Cooperation) said that he wished he had already developed the concept of decent work when the Social Summit outcome documents were being drafted. That would have summed up neatly everything that was being said at the time about employment, rights at work and the ratification of ILO conventions.

65. **Mr. Yao** Shaojun (China) said that the Social Summit had been a very important international event and that the outcome documents were still highly relevant. His delegation attached importance to, and had been very active in implementing, the outcome of the Social Summit, including social sector reforms. His Government had sought to eradicate poverty in China by increasing and extending social protections, creating employment and education opportunities for young people and introducing health sector reforms. The result had been a more equitable society, allowing citizens to enjoy the fruits of economic growth and promoting greater social harmony.

66. While some had called for social development to be highlighted in the post-2015 development agenda, his delegation was of the view that the three pillars of sustainable development must be given equal attention. The Social Summit outcome documents could form the basis for the new social development goals, taking into account recent developments in that area. Core elements of social development, such as poverty eradication, employment and social harmony and inclusion, should be fully reflected and emphasized in the post-2015 development agenda.

67. While the new agenda would seek to integrate the three development pillars, in practice, the different United Nations agencies and national governments had specific mandates that they would have to follow. He therefore wished to know how that would affect the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda and the integration of the three pillars in practice, particularly with regard to weighing social and environmental considerations against economic ones.

68. Lastly, he concurred that the State, society, markets and individuals should have a balanced relationship and that attention should be paid to the concerns of NGOs. However, civil society organizations from developing countries were often overlooked. What could be done to ensure that their voices were heard?

69. **Mr. Somavía** (Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Interregional Policy Cooperation) said that, without integration, economic policy would be left to the markets. Experience since the Social Summit had shown that if economic policy was decided by the financial sector, it generally produced unfair and unbalanced globalization and led to greater inequality. The Social Summit had marked the first confrontation between the social ideals of the United Nations and neoliberal economic thinking. Yet, despite calls for the reform of structural adjustment programmes and the introduction of social considerations into economic policy, leaders at the Social Summit had failed to

recognize the need to integrate the three pillars of development and to understand the linkages between them. He was therefore concerned that if Member States made that mistake again with the post-2015 development agenda, history would repeat itself: the economy would take care of itself and social and environmental considerations would take a back seat.

70. During the 1990s, NGOs representing developed and developing countries had contributed greatly to debates within the United Nations system; their participation in the momentous agreements to be adopted in 2015 should therefore be encouraged. Channels of communication must be opened. Without NGO input, problems could be overlooked or underestimated. Today, communities and citizens around the world were organizing themselves and wanted to create a more participatory political process. People were more empowered and were demanding solutions to global problems. It was clear that when there was greater transparency around policy decisions, the general public was happier with the outcomes of those policies. If people felt that public policy was unbalanced, they were more likely to mobilize against it.

71. **Mr. Bissio** (Coordinator of the International Secretariat of Social Watch) said that he shared the concerns expressed by the representative of China concerning the input of civil society organizations from developing countries in the debate on development. NGOs based in the global South did not have the same influence, access to money or freedom to travel as those in the global North. While he commended United Nations efforts to compensate for those inequalities, the problem of resources must be addressed.

72. Those asymmetries mirrored the growing inequalities within and between countries today. The problems that were reported daily from around the world were directly related to those inequalities — from the migrant deaths in the Mediterranean to the social unrest and conflicts in many countries. Member States and their citizens wanted to be treated fairly and to have equal opportunities. He therefore welcomed the commitment contained in the sustainable development goals to tackle inequality. Indicators, implementation programmes and follow-up and review mechanisms should also specifically address inequality in order to achieve the broader integration of the three pillars of development.

73. **Mr. Donoghue** (Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations) said that the concepts that had originated at the Social Summit were being incorporated into the post-2015 development agenda. The insights that the current discussion had provided into the political and social background and context of the Social Summit had been very pertinent. He agreed that the outcome of the Addis Ababa Conference in July would be instrumental to the implementation of the new agenda, and that the United Nations must adapt in response to the new goals and targets.

74. To ensure the attainment of the sustainable development goals, a follow-up mechanism must be put in place and accountability ensured at all levels. Implementation would have to move to centre stage and consideration must be given to the practical integration of the three pillars.

75. **Ms. Mejía Vélez** (Colombia) said that it was important to identify deliverable goals, particularly with regard to development financing. The identification of deliverable targets had been behind the success of the Copenhagen Summit and the Monterrey Consensus, where those targets had been seen as instruments for promoting social equality and long-term economic growth. Attainment of the 0.7 per cent ODA target would certainly go some way towards achieving the dreams set out in the post-2015 development agenda.

76. Member States had strayed from the road to development in the years since the Social Summit; for many reasons, a review mechanism must therefore be put in place to ensure that they did not lose their way again. The United Nations system must understand and be ready to meet the risks and challenges that the world faced.

77. **Mr. Somavía** (Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Interregional Policy Cooperation) urged countries to continue to be ambitious. There would always be naysayers who would claim that the post-2015 development agenda was too complex and too difficult to achieve. However, the United Nations could make a major contribution to the world by taking the lead. In a world where leadership was lacking, there was great potential within the United Nations system. Despite the complexity and difficulties, the political will was there and Member States had been able to produce, collectively, a comprehensive vision of the future and examine the problems at the heart of society.

78. Member States must continue to be ambitious, as once the new goals were adopted, the challenge would be even greater. Obstacles would emerge; there would be those who would try to divert them from their path. That had been the case in the 1990s: the Social Summit had ended with a structural vision for development, but the Millennium Development Goals had followed a different development plan. It was perfectly possible that that scenario would play out again if Member States did not aim high. It would be difficult. The global economy was being manipulated by the financial system, when it should be at the heart of development. The world's enormous financial resources should be invested in creating employment opportunities and not poured into financial speculation. As soon as the agenda was adopted, Member States would come up against many vested interests that wanted the status quo to continue; they must therefore be determined and unafraid to tell the truth. Significant progress had already been achieved; Members States should continue on that path.

79. As for the suggestion put forward by the ILO representative, it was odd that the zero draft of the post-2015 development agenda did not include a reference to the Social Summit, particularly in the light of the discussion at the current meeting. He urged Member States to consider including a reference to the Social Summit, given the key role it had played in defining and shaping sustainable development, and to the other summits that had led to the post-2015 development agenda. The agenda would be less coherent without those references.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.

United Nations E/2015/SR.32

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
28 July 2015

Original: English

2015 session
21 July 2014-22 July 2015
Third coordination and management meeting

Summary record of the 32nd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 8 June 2015, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. Oh Joon (Vice-President) ..... (Republic of Korea)

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15-09223 (E)

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In the absence of Mr. Sajdik (Austria), Mr. Oh Joon (Republic of Korea), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Social and human rights questions

(b) Social development (E/2015/3 and E/2015/26)

1. **Ms. Bas** (Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014 (A/70/61-E/2015/3), said that family-oriented policies and programmes that supported intergenerational solidarity and cooperation contributed to the achievement of development goals. She stressed the need for relevant policies aimed at promoting the well-being of the family and its individual members, and for laws promoting gender equality and better protection of vulnerable family members from violence. The international community should avoid attempts to define the family, given the varying contexts.

2. Her Division was ready to assist Member States in further advancing family-centred policies and programmes. Reports on thematic issues such as recent demographic changes and their impact on families, gender equality and children's rights within families would be useful to that end.

3. **Ms. Miculescu** (Observer for Romania), speaking in her capacity as Chair of the Commission for Social Development, said that, during the fifty-third session of the Commission , members had stressed the continued relevance of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, and had reaffirmed their commitment to fulfilling its goals. A variety of issues had been raised, and lessons learned and best practices explored. Equality was no longer seen as the product of market forces alone; persistent and emerging challenges required a change of course in social development. Greater knowledge on how to address social development challenges should support the transition to the post-2015 development agenda with the well-being of people at its core.

4. Broad-based multi-stakeholder consultations were increasingly being used to address interlinkages between the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. However, some interlinkages, for example, between poverty and environmental sustainability, decent work and economic and environmental sustainability, or climate change and social sustainability, had not yet been fully explored or sufficiently addressed. Economic growth alone would be insufficient to achieve sustainable development. In contrast, comprehensive and well-designed social policies had proven effective in reducing poverty and inequality and in maximizing opportunities for all to participate in productive economic activities. A holistic and integrated social policy strengthened human capacity and resilience by improving access to basic services and productive resources, enhancing skills and mitigating risks of economic and environmental shocks. Political will was seen as a contributing factor to the establishment of a comprehensive and coordinated approach at the national level, while a human-rights-based approach was considered critical to people-centred development. That should be reflected in the sustainable development goals.

5. During its preparation, the Bureau had made an effort to align the work of the Commission with that of the Economic and Social Council. A general discussion that emphasized the need to involve young people in political decisions and improve the strategies and structures to successfully and sustainably strengthen youth participation had been held. Various policy initiatives for older persons and the need to promote and protect their rights had also been discussed. Several Member States had emphasized the critical role of the family in society in general, and social development in particular, as well as the need to support families through effective national policies. A discussion between the Commission and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities had focused on the development component of her mandate.

6. Members of the Commission had discussed its future role in better reflecting the interests of the social development community, including the potential provision of a framework for monitoring and accountability. The following year, the Commission would adopt a negotiated outcome on the priority theme of the fifty-third session and analyse its methods of work. Anticipated changes to those methods of work would allow the Commission to further strengthen the work of the Council and respond, within its mandate, to the new framework within which all development

partners would seek to achieve the sustainable development goals.

General discussion

7. **Mr. Ríos Sánchez** (Observer for Mexico) said that Mexico had been an active participant in the fifty-third session of the Commission for Social Development. The Commission, largely uninvolved in the post-2015 development agenda negotiation process, should work to increase its effectiveness, and contribute to and follow up on the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda with a view to achieving sustainable and inclusive development for all. The risk that the Commission would fall into irrelevance made it necessary to consider how to transform it within the context of the reform of the Economic and Social Council.

Action on recommendations contained in the report of the Commission for Social Development on its fifty-third session (E/2015/26-E/CN.5/2015/9)

8. **The President** invited the Council to take action on three draft resolutions and two draft decisions contained in chapter I, sections A, B and C, of the report (E/2015/26-E/CN.5/2015/9).

Section A

Draft resolution I: Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

Draft resolution II: Promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and strengthening the mainstreaming of disability in the post-2015 development agenda

Draft resolution III: Modalities for the third review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002

9. *Draft resolutions I, II and III were adopted.*

Section B

Draft decision: Report of the Commission for Social Development on its fifty-third session and provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-fourth session

10. *The draft decision was adopted.*

Section C

Draft decision 53/101: Nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

11. **The President** said he took it that the Council wished to confirm the nomination of Saraswathi Menon (India), Ping Huang (China) and Patricia Schulz (Switzerland) to the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.

12. *It was so decided.*

The meeting was suspended at 3.40 p.m. and resumed at 4 p.m.

Coordination, programme and other questions

(c) Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (E/2015/58)

Economic and environmental questions

(j) Women and development (E/2015/27-E/CN.6/2015/10)

Social and human rights questions

(a) Advancement of women (E/2015/27-E/CN.6/2015/10 and E/2015/67)

13. **Ms. Puri** (Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (E/2015/58), said that 168 countries had presented reports under the comprehensive review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The review of the global report during the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women had revealed the continued exclusion of most marginalized women and girls from the otherwise unacceptably slow progress made. The review was indispensable to the definition of the post-2015 development framework, and had led the United Nations system and Member States to recommit to systematic gender mainstreaming, investment, results and accountability.

14. Member States had requested United Nations system and UN-Women support for their implementation efforts. Accordingly, UN-Women was working to ensure that gender was reflected throughout

the legally binding instrument under negotiation within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and was seeking funding for gender equality commitments within the framework of the third United Nations Conference on Financing for Development. United Nations entities should be fit for purpose, supportive of Member State implementation efforts, and capable of providing substantive support for accountability mechanisms.

15. A total of 62 entities, departments and offices within the United Nations system had consistently reported on their implementation of the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women; in the Action Plan's third year of implementation, progress had been achieved in 14 of the 15 performance indicators. In 2014, 59 per cent of all reporting entities had gender policies, with an additional 9 entities committed to completing policies by the end of 2015. However, much remained to be done before the Action Plan's 2017 deadline, as requirements had been exceeded in only a few instances and performance remained poor for many indicators, including capacity assessment, gender architecture and parity, and resource tracking and allocation. No entity had exceeded performance requirements for the gender architecture and parity indicator, with data revealing that, at the current rate of progress, it would take approximately 25 years to achieve parity at some professional levels. It was also critical to track financial resources.

16. United Nations country teams were found to have made progress in mainstreaming gender in common programming processes; however, the mandate of UN-Women must also be strengthened in coordination within country teams and at regional levels to improve gender mainstreaming on the ground. UN-Women had received more requests for support, but the lack of human resources in critical programme areas had often negatively impacted programme results.

17. Greater attention to strategic planning and monitoring, including technical support to implementing partners, was needed in respect of United Nations peacebuilding and development frameworks. It was important to ensure national ownership, multi-stakeholder and civil society engagement and the embedding of accountability in local institutions. Resource mobilization was another significant challenge; fulfilling gender equality commitments in the post-2015 context would require robust and adequate financing. Predictable and substantial funding for large-scale gender equality programming across sectors and themes would be critical to countering the ongoing challenge of understaffing and underfunding. Gender-responsive interventions required dedicated financial resources, including through joint resource mobilization and commitment by donors and programme countries.

18. Monitoring and data collection methods required further improvement in order to enhance the United Nations system's evidence-based analytical programming, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of its operational activities for development. Strengthened capacity would also be needed to address remaining gaps and challenges, and to comply fully and effectively with the Action Plan. UN-Women looked forward to Member State support in that regard, as experience had shown that the commitment of resources yielded the best results.

19. **Mr. Aguiar de Patriota** (Brazil), speaking in his capacity as Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women, said that the Commission's fifty-ninth session had been the culmination of a two-year review process that confirmed both the importance that all stakeholders attributed to gender equality, empowerment of women and the human rights of women and girls and the disappointing reality that no country had achieved gender equality. Governments had pledged to take additional measures to ensure the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

20. Participants at the session had presented solutions that had been effective in amending laws and policies, changing attitudes that perpetuated discrimination against women and girls, increasing investment in gender equality and women's empowerment, strengthening institutions and accountability frameworks to ensure delivery of results for women and girls, and building partnerships that would overcome structural barriers to gender equality and end unequal power relations between women and men. Those solutions must be scaled up and replicated in order to attain gender equality and the empowerment of women by 2030.

21. The Commission continued to refine its methods of work through its practice since updating them in 2006. At its fifty-ninth session, it had embraced three key elements in its activities, namely, giving added

impetus to the accelerated implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action by, inter alia, introducing a ministerial segment in its sessions and strengthening the impact of its review theme; contributing to the follow-up to the post-2015 development agenda as it related to gender equality and the empowerment of women, and to the work of the Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development; and continuing its contribution to the Council's work by reporting on gender-equality and empowerment-of-women aspects of the agreed main theme of the Council.

22. The Commission was committed to strengthening existing opportunities for non-governmental organizations (NGOs), which had a vital role to play in its work. Its new methods of work enhanced the participation of NGOs by allocating time for them to deliver statements during panels, interactive dialogues and in the general discussion, taking into account geographical distribution. In conclusion, the Commission urged the Council to insist that when the high-level political forum met under its auspices, gender equality was explicitly addressed in the review and follow-up across the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals.

Action on draft resolutions and decisions contained in the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fifty-ninth session (E/2015/27-E/CN.6/2015/10)

23. **The President** said that action on draft resolution E/2015/L.11 entitled "Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system" would be deferred in order to allow the Secretariat additional time to complete its review of programme budget implications. Following informal consultations, action on draft resolution I entitled "Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women", contained in chapter I, section A, of the report, would be deferred. He invited the Council to take action on draft resolution II.

Draft resolution II: Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women

24. *Draft resolution II was adopted.*

25. **The President** invited the Council to take action on the draft decision contained in chapter I, section B, of the report.

Draft decision entitled "Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fifty-ninth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the sixtieth session of the Commission"

26. *The draft decision was adopted.*

Economic and environmental questions

(l) Transport of dangerous goods (E/2015/66)

27. **Ms. Simioni** (Social Affairs Officer, Regional Commissions New York Office), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (E/2015/66) on behalf of Mr. Kervella, Chief of the Dangerous Goods and Special Cargoes Section, Economic Commission for Europe, said that the first part of the report contained a draft resolution prepared by the Committee for adoption by the Council. The second part contained detailed information on the implementation of resolution 2013/25. In that regard, the Secretary-General had published the eighteenth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Model Regulations*, Amendment No. 2 to the *Manual of Tests and Criteria* and the fifth revised edition of the *Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals* in all six United Nations languages.

28. The International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the International Organization for International Carriage by Rail and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) had already amended their respective legal instruments on the transport of dangerous goods to give effect to the recommended new provisions. Many countries had also updated their legislation applicable to domestic transport accordingly. As little information was available on the implementation of the Recommendations by countries that did not participate in the Committee's work or in that of the ECE Inland Transport Committee, the Secretary-General should collect more information about the status of implementation of the Recommendations worldwide for transport by road, rail or inland waterways in the same manner as IMO and ICAO did for maritime and air transport. In particular, the Secretary-General should seek information from all Member States about the national

competent authorities entitled to certify that a packaging design type met the United Nations construction and performance recommendations and might bear the United Nations certification mark.

29. The secretariat of the Committee of Experts had collected information on the implementation of the *Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals*, with some 68 countries — including the major producers of chemical products — amending their legislation to give effect to the System. In 2015, the transitional period in which the chemical industry could still comply with previous national legislation would come to an end. In addition, many capacity-building activities supported by Governments or the private sector had been carried out by a wide range of United Nations and other organizations.

30. The third part of the report focused on the work of the Committee of Experts during the 2013-2014 biennium and on its new recommendations, while the fourth part comprised a programme of work and meeting schedule for the 2015-2016 biennium. The Council was invited to approve the programme of work by adopting the draft resolution contained in section I of the report.

Action on the recommendation contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

31. **The President** invited the Council to take action on the draft resolution contained in section I of the report.

Draft resolution entitled "Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals"

32. *The draft resolution was adopted.*

The meeting rose at 4.45 p.m.

United Nations E/2015/SR.33

Economic and Social Council

15 September 2015

Original: English

2015 session
21 July 2014-22 July 2015
Third coordination and management meeting

Summary record of the 33rd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 9 June 2015, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. Drobnjak (Vice-President) ..... (Croatia)

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* Items which the Council has decided to consider together.

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15-09294 (E)

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In the absence of Mr. Sajdik (Austria), Mr. Drobnjak (Croatia), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Coordination, programme and other questions (*continued*)

(f) Prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (E/2015/53 and E/2015/L.14)

1. **Ms. Menabde** (World Health Organization), introducing the report of the Director-General of the World Health Organization on the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (E/2015/53), said that, between June 2014 and June 2015, the work of the Task Force had been directed towards the implementation of the six objectives set out in its terms of reference. In particular, it had focused on strengthening the capacities of United Nations country teams to prevent and control non-communicable diseases, including through joint programming missions. The Task Force had conducted missions to Belarus, India, Kenya and Tonga during the reporting period, and, after the submission of the report, to Barbados. Participants in the missions had included the heads of the resident organizations of the United Nations system, supported by senior representatives from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Bank and the World Health Organization (WHO). In addition, many WHO offices at the country level had worked closely with United Nations country teams to scale up national responses to non-communicable diseases and increase access to interventions that would reduce risk factors and enable health systems in those countries to respond adequately to the challenges posed by those diseases.

2. In February 2015, UNDP and WHO had issued a guidance note on the integration of non-communicable diseases into the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. It highlighted the importance of ensuring that linkages were made between the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases and broader development issues, such as universal health coverage, social protection, governance and social determinants of health. It also highlighted linkages with other sectors, including finance, trade, importance of engaging with all parts of Government and society.

3. Selected members of the Task Force were developing joint programmes for action at the country level in accordance with the UNDP guidance note on joint programmes in order to mobilize resources for the prevention and control of cancer and strengthen national and subnational governance for non-communicable diseases. The design of those programmes built on the experience gained through the Be He@lthy, Be Mobile joint programme of WHO and the International Telecommunication Union, which had been launched in eight countries. The Task Force acknowledged the special focus on tobacco control within its mandate and members remained committed to duly addressing and prioritizing that issue. Activities had been carried out to help Governments strengthen national coordination in that area, advance ratification of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products, develop policy recommendations for economically sustainable alternatives to tobacco growing, reduce trade in tobacco, establish knowledge hubs and promote South-South cooperation.

4. Many Task Force members had started to align their policies and resources to support the objectives of the Task Force, and sizeable gains had occurred even in the smallest programmes. The Task Force had demonstrated great power in promoting collective action and faster results in preventing and controlling non-communicable diseases. However, progress in meeting the demand for technical assistance from developing countries to set national targets for 2025; in developing national multisectoral policies and plans on non-communicable diseases to achieve the national targets by 2025; and in strengthening national capacities to assess progress and monitor results had been insufficient and highly uneven among United Nations country teams. Bolder measures were needed to accelerate efforts to equip country teams with the knowledge and expertise to support national efforts to address non-communicable diseases and mitigate their negative impact.

Draft resolution E/2015/L.14: United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases

5. **Mr. Maksimychev** (Russian Federation), introducing draft resolution E/2015/L.14, said that Angola, Armenia, China, Iceland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Monaco,

Nepal, Panama, Serbia and Tunisia had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

6. The international community had made significant progress towards combating non-communicable diseases, including through the adoption of global goals and the establishment of a monitoring system for their achievement. The main objective of the draft resolution was to add fresh impetus to multilateral cooperation in combating non-communicable diseases and to the work of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases. It would facilitate achievement of the Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases 2013-2020 and support implementation of the goals contained in the 2011 Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases and the 2014 outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the comprehensive review and assessment of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.

7. **The President** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications and recalled that it had been issued only that morning. He took that it the Council wished to waive rule 54 of the rules of procedure in order not to delay its adoption.

8. *It was so decided.*

9. *Draft resolution E/2015/L.14 was adopted.*

Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits

(a) Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development (A/70/85-E/2015/77)

Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(h) International cooperation in tax matters (E/2014/45; E/2015/L.9 and E/2015/L.12)

10. **Mr. Mminele** (South Africa), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Council's deliberations should be based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and should take into account different economic realities. Work at the United Nations should also respect national policy space and correspond with national priorities.

11. The co-facilitators of the financing for development process had shown themselves keen to complete the drafting of the outcome document of the third International Conference on Financing for Development within the agreed time frame, and the Group and its development partners were committed to achieving that goal. Steps should be taken to mobilize the highest level of political participation for that Conference, which would be held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015.

12. The outcome document should result in quality deliverables that made the purpose of the meeting clear. In particular, the document should resemble the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration in terms of scope and structure, and the headings and subheadings should reflect the fact that the Conference was on financing for development. The traditional definition of official development assistance should be maintained and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities should be observed. Financing for development must be kept separate from the sustainable development goals and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; in that regard, climate finance should not be included in the financing for development process. The Group was committed to ensuring an ambitious outcome that suited the interests of all Member States and focused on poverty eradication.

13. Tax systems played a key role in development and a global, inclusive norm-setting body was needed to strengthen international tax cooperation at the intergovernmental level. The Group had repeatedly called for the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters to be upgraded to an intergovernmental body of the Council, in order to allow all Member States, including developing countries, to have an equal say on tax matters and to enable the Committee of Experts to contribute effectively to the financing for development and post-2015 development agenda processes. The Group urged the Council to act on that issue speedily to make the global discourse on tax matters transparent and inclusive.

14. The Group welcomed the updating of the United Nations Model Double Taxation Convention between Developed and Developing Countries and the completion of the United Nations Transfer Pricing Practical Manual for Developing Countries. The Committee of Experts had also done good work in the area of capacity-building on international tax matters though there was still scope for improvement. The United Nations played an important role in international

cooperation on tax matters but national sovereignty must be respected and there should be no interference from external actors in tax matters that fell within the remit of national Governments. In particular, tax revenues were not a replacement for official development assistance. Official development assistance represented the major source of financing for the development of many developing countries and must target the eradication of poverty in its multiple dimensions. Unfulfilled official development assistance commitments under the Millennium Development Goals should be carried forward and the impact of the official development assistance deficit should be urgently assessed as part of the review of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and Doha Declaration.

15. The Group urged Member States to move towards resolving the current impasse in tax matters. Work on tax matters should reflect a commitment to operate within the confines of the revitalized global partnership for sustainable development.

Draft resolution E/2015/L.9: Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters

16. **Mr. Mminele** (South Africa), introducing draft resolution E/2015/L.9 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the draft resolution called for the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters to be upgraded to an intergovernmental subsidiary body of the Council. However, action on the draft resolution would not be taken until after the third International Conference on Financing for Development.

17. **The President** said that the Council would take action on draft resolution E/2015/L.9 at a later date.

Draft decision E/2015/L.12: Venue and dates of and provisional agenda for the eleventh session of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters

18. **The President** said that the draft decision contained no programme budget implications.

19. *Draft decision E/2015/L.12 was adopted.*

United Nations research and training institutes
(A/70/79-E/2015/70; E/2015/7, E/2015/12 and E/2015/54; E/2015/L.10)

20. **Mr. Javan** (United Nations System Staff College), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations System Staff College (E/2015/54), said that the College provided system-wide knowledge management and training for the staff of the United Nations system with the strategic objective of better equipping them to deliver as one. Training and learning should be at the heart of any strategy developed to ensure that the United Nations was fit to respond to the global challenges ahead.

21. During the period under review, the courses, workshops and knowledge products of the College had equipped some 25,000 United Nations staff with the knowledge and tools to work towards the common goal of making the United Nations more coherent, efficient and effective. That figure represented an increase of 23 per cent over the previous biennium. To enhance the relevance of its courses, the College collaborated with experts, academic institutions, private sector entities and United Nations partners. It had identified priority areas of learning intervention and had expanded its portfolio of courses to respond to the far-reaching reform agenda of the United Nations system. It had also strengthened its ability to systematically review its offerings. It had achieved all those results despite being a small entity that generated 75 per cent of its income from fees and contracts for services.

22. Strengthening leadership capacity across the system remained a principal mission of the College. Vision, courage and a focused skill set in the senior leadership were imperative to drive the change that the United Nations urgently needed and to effectively overcome obstacles and resistance. To successfully deliver as one, leadership must be inspired by a sense of belonging to something greater than its own entity and be equipped to create an environment in which staff members felt empowered to take reasonable risks to promote United Nations values and principles. In the reporting period, the College had supported over 450 United Nations senior managers in refining and aligning their leadership approaches, and it now offered a comprehensive "United Nations leadership pathway" with a portfolio of courses for staff at the mid-career level (P-3 and P-4) and the senior executive level (Under-Secretary-General and Assistant Secretary-General). In addition, the College had delivered more than 40 strategic prioritization retreats for United Nations country teams around the world, attended by at least 2,413 participants, with the sponsorship of the Development Operations Coordination Office. Through the retreats, country teams and their counterparts had

prepared country development strategies with a focus on system-wide programming and delivery.

23. To increase the capacity of staff to implement the forthcoming sustainable development agenda, the College had developed new courses and tools on partnership building and development cooperation in middle-income countries. It was working to devise a learning strategy for resident coordinators on human rights and, jointly with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, was preparing national sustainable development training workshops for United Nations country teams and national actors. In addition, it was expanding its online post-2015 learning hub, which allowed United Nations staff to access information on post-2015 issues.

24. Given the increasing challenges in peace and security, the College had broadened its portfolio of courses on conflict analysis and prevention, decentralization and peacebuilding. It was also expanding its partnership with the United Nations Department of Safety and Security to address the growing risks faced by United Nations staff in the field. In other areas, the College had developed new courses on essential skills for United Nations staff at all levels and feedback from participants had been positive. United Nations staff must be equipped with adequate knowledge, tools and innovative capacity to make a real difference in saving and improving lives and maintaining the comparative advantage of the system.

25. Concerning future plans, the College was working to increase its ability to spread the vast knowledge generated by the United Nations system and to create forums for staff to engage in strategic thinking on urgent challenges. It would foster networks of committed staff capable of concerted action to assess and implement system-wide reforms and promote positive change. United Nations partners should consider the College as the first port of call for their learning and training needs and should sponsor ongoing staff participation. Member States should continue to support the College as it aimed to build a comprehensive portfolio of programmes designed to drive organizational change and contribute to the long-term sustainability of the Organization.

26. No other entity was mandated to provide a platform for system-wide knowledge-sharing. The success of the Organization in overcoming future challenges would be determined not only by policy but also by the ability and willingness of the United Nations to become a learning organization. To that end, the College was working to drive change management, although there remained much to be done.

27. **Ms. Caeymaex** (United Nations University), introducing the report of the Council of the United Nations University on the work of the University (E/2015/7), said that the University was a solution-focused think-tank and research organization whose mission was to contribute to efforts to resolve the pressing global problems of human survival, development and welfare by providing reliable evidence for policy development. It worked closely with Member States to identify research needs and to help develop the knowledge to address them. The University received no funds from the regular United Nations budget and relied on contributions from host Governments, agencies, international organizations and other sources, as well as investment income from its endowment fund. In 2014, the University had received $46.9 million in contributions from 22 Governments and some 112 other sources.

28. Since 1975, the University had grown to a global network of research and training institutes with a staff of 479 and an annual budget of more than $65 million. In 2014, the University had implemented 178 research projects, most of which had been focused on or in developing countries. The areas covered included modern slavery, violent extremism and climate change. In the same year, the University website had received more than 6.77 million page views.

29. The University was implementing institutional changes to become more responsive to the needs of the United Nations and its Member States and to enhance its research on intergovernmental deliberations and policy, with a more specific focus on identifying practical solutions to real problems and translating those findings into knowledge that could contribute to important policy debates within the United Nations system.

30. Institutional developments included the formation of the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability, which focused its research on high-level policymaking in the areas of sustainability science, biodiversity and environmental governance. In addition, the United Nations University Centre for Policy Research had been established in Tokyo in 2014 as part of the University's efforts to enhance its policy relevance in the fields of peace and

security and global development. The core mission of the Centre was to generate policy research that was relevant to major debates in the wider United Nations community. The Centre had already contributed to several major ongoing policy processes in the United Nations, including the Council's dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the United Nations development system. It had also organized a major panel on climate economics at the Climate Summit 2014.

31. The University had adopted a new University-wide strategic plan for 2015-2019, which contained four key organizational priorities: ensuring management excellence at all levels; sustainable growth; streamlining of partnerships; and restructuring of teaching programmes and capacity development.

32. **Ms. Fegan-Wyles** (United Nations Institute for Training and Research), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (E/2015/12), said that the Institute's mission was to strengthen the capacities of the citizens of Member States through targeted training and research on knowledge systems, with priority given to developing countries. Adult education was provided to government delegates engaged in multilateral processes to establish norms, policies and programmes on the issues addressed by the United Nations, key change agents who were working to translate those agreements into concrete action at the country level, and other stakeholders.

33. Since 2014, the Institute had been working under its new four-year strategic framework to strengthen multilateralism, promote economic development and social inclusion, advance environmental sustainability and green growth, promote sustainable peace, and improve resilience and humanitarian response. Over the previous year it had provided training for more than 36,000 beneficiaries, including individuals from virtually all Member States, which represented an increase of 54 per cent compared with 2013. Notwithstanding that increase, income had remained stable, reflecting the continued expansion of training through e-learning, which was a cost-effective way of providing knowledge to large numbers of people. However, face-to-face training also remained very important, given the limited use of e-learning in the development of more sophisticated analytical skills.

34. In 2014, the Institute, with support from the Governments of Algeria and Sweden, had waived the course fees for more than 250 delegates as part of its efforts to strengthen multilateralism and level the playing field between developed country and developing country delegations in New York and Geneva. It had also provided interactive technical briefings designed to ensure that delegates had easy access to the knowledge they needed to reach agreement on the post-2015 development agenda. To promote economic development and social inclusion, the Institute had launched initiatives to encourage investment in Africa and youth employability in Algeria and Nigeria. In addition, it continued to expand its network of affiliated training centres for effective management of resources by local actors, having opened new centres in Quito and San Salvador.

35. The Institute continued to contribute to building human and institutional capacities to overcome critical environmental challenges and promote low-carbon growth. To that end, working with its partners, it had launched a follow-up phase of the One United Nations Climate Change Learning Partnership, with the inclusion of additional countries and the launch of a free online course on climate change. It had also scaled up its green economy programming, as well as its programming in the area of chemicals and waste management, with country projects designed to accelerate ratification of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

36. To promote sustainable peace, the Institute had strengthened its high-level engagement activities with Member States and the United Nations, and was working with representatives of African States on the Security Council, together with the Chair of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and senior officials of the African Union Commission, to develop a common vision and policies on peace and security in Africa. It had also launched an online international Master's degree in conflictology in collaboration with the Open University of Catalonia, which was aimed at the staff of United Nations peacekeeping missions.

37. The Institute was working to improve resilience and humanitarian response through its Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT), which, in 2014, had produced maps and reports on natural disasters and humanitarian crises, as well as damage assessments. The Institute had also led two projects designed to build the capacities of Governments and organizations in the use of geographic information systems.

38. In addition to its programmatic areas, the Institute was working to strengthen its managing for results, performance measurement and evaluation frameworks and practices. Beneficiary reaction to courses provided by the Institute remained very positive.

39. The Institute was entirely voluntary funded but, despite the difficult economic environment, its income remained stable. Progress had been made in reversing the downtrend in non-earmarked contributions to the General Fund, thanks largely to a generous contribution from the Government of Algeria. The Institute had also implemented a new cost recovery model which differentiated between indirect and direct support costs. That approach had increased transparency with donors and had proved effective in covering the costs of the Institute's essential leadership, oversight and support functions.

40. **Mr. Won-soo** (Special Adviser to the Secretary-General), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the consultations on research, training and library services (A/70/79-E/2015/70), said that the Council had requested the Secretary-General to develop a proposal on how to enhance collaboration among the seven United Nations entities dedicated to research, training and library services. Over the previous two years, extensive consultations had been held with the entities concerned and with Member States concerning the proposed consolidation of some of the entities, including the United Nations Institute for Training and Research. Several serious obstacles to the proposed consolidation had been identified both by the entities themselves and through intergovernmental processes, and it had been concluded that it would be better to pursue synergies through voluntary collaboration. As a result, the existing legal status, mandates and governance structures of the entities involved would be respected and no proposals involving structural changes or budgetary implications would be made. In addition, any steps to be taken would remain subject to the full scrutiny and approval of the respective boards.

41. In the area of training, the United Nations System Staff College and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, as the two largest training entities, would work together more closely, through their respective governing bodies, to identify and implement initiatives that would improve the quality and impact of their respective activities. In addition, an advisory group would be established to bring together the major learning and training providers in the United Nations system to ensure greater alignment between supply and demand, increase mutual use of their respective services and reduce transaction costs by making greater use of outside providers to provide training for United Nations staff and representatives of Member States.

42. Many different parts of the United Nations Secretariat and the United Nations system were involved in research activities, including the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research; relevant research also existed outside the United Nations system. The United Nations University, which had the widest research network, would lead work to connect all the various research activities in support of the new development agenda. It had been decided not to include the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research in the voluntary collaboration model for the time being, given that it was entirely focused on the disarmament research agenda, which was not covered by the post-2015 development agenda.

43. It was widely recognized by Member States that there was a need to bring together the core functions of the two largest libraries in the Secretariat, the Dag Hammarskjöld Library in New York and the Library of the United Nations Office at Geneva, to avoid duplication and achieve synergies, although the two libraries also carried out activities that were unique to each location. A small internal libraries board would be established to examine ways to enhance collaboration between the two libraries, not only with regard to traditional library functions but also in new areas emerging with the greater use of information technology. The synergies achieved would also enable the United Nations system to tap into the capacities of smaller libraries on all five continents.

44. It was important to ensure overall coherence in training, research and library services, and all senior managers needed to consider the coordination of those three functions. To that end, an internal knowledge and learning steering committee would be established to foster a more holistic approach. Some steps had already been taken under the voluntary collaboration model, including the organization of an internal meeting to develop terms of reference for the advisory group on learning and training. In carrying out the next

steps it was important to ensure that internal accountability was standardized among the entities, since the lack of standard mechanisms across entities had in the past led to problems.

45. **Mr. Lambertini** (Italy) said that the emergence of the new post-2015 development agenda and a rapidly evolving global context made access to knowledge and information for key actors more essential than ever. His delegation therefore commended the efforts to enhance coherence and synergies among United Nations entities dedicated to research, training and library services. It also welcomed the work being undertaken to create better alignment between supply and demand in training services in order to increase efficiency in the use of existing in-house resources while limiting the cost of external procurement.

46. Italy hosted the United Nations System Staff College and devoted considerable resources to its development. The achievements made by the College, despite its lean organizational structure, were to be welcomed. The College played a unique role as a true inter-agency training provider specifically mandated to bring staff together from different parts of the United Nations system. His delegation therefore encouraged the College to build stronger synergies with other United Nations departments and entities and welcomed its role in the implementation of the Organization's far-reaching reform agenda.

47. Working closely with Member States and multilateral agencies, the College was building a portfolio of learning services that would address the emerging needs of staff in the post-2015 context, and facilitate change management and organizational transformation. Member States should support the College so that it could help the Organization to build capacities and become fit for purpose across all three pillars of its Charter.

48. **Mr. Mminele** (South Africa), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that training and research would be of paramount importance for the post-2015 development agenda. In that regard, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research would play a key role in capacity-building. The Group had confidence in the Institute's New York Office given the positive results of training sessions held at Headquarters. Over the previous four years, the Office had organized some 120 workshops for delegates, nearly 70 per cent of whom had come from the Group of 77 and China. The Group hoped that the understanding and cooperation between itself and the Institute's New York Office would continue to expand. In particular, the courses provided must be in line with the needs and priorities of Member States.

49. **Mr. Eshanta** (Observer for Libya) said that his delegation welcomed the assistance that the United Nations Institute for Training and Research provided, particularly to developing countries, in the form of training and research courses in diplomacy, international cooperation and other fields. The courses and training provided by the Institute would help to build the capacities of delegates and facilitate national capacity-building measures in the areas of development, justice, human rights and conflict resolution and prevention.

50. **Mr. Alsharrah** (Kuwait) said that his delegation welcomed the important role played by the Institute in training and research and commended its efforts in raising awareness of the importance of the post-2015 development agenda. It looked forward to strengthening its cooperation with the New York Office of the Institute, especially in order for Kuwaiti diplomats to enhance their understanding of working methods in the fields of diplomacy, development and economics.

51. **Mr. Djacta** (Observer for Algeria) said that the New York Office of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research should be strengthened so that all delegations could continue to benefit from the services that it provided.

Draft resolution E/2015/L.10: United Nations System Staff College in Turin, Italy

52. **The President** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

53. **Mr. Dugan** (United States of America) said that the submission of draft resolution E/2015/L.10 underscored the consensus that existed among Member States in support of the continued work of the Staff College. His delegation supported the efforts of the College to promote effectiveness and good change management practices throughout the United Nations system.

54. *Draft resolution E/2015/L.10 was adopted.*

55. **The President** proposed that the Council should take note of the report of the Council of the United Nations University on the work of the University

(E/2015/7), the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (E/2015/12) and the report of the Secretary-General on the consultations on research, training and library services (A/70/79-E/2015/70).

56. *It was so decided.*

Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(m) Assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions

57. **The President** said that no advance documentation had been submitted under the sub-item and no draft proposal was before the Council.

The meeting rose at 12.00 p.m.

United Nations E/2015/SR.34

Economic and Social Council

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Third coordination and management meeting

Summary record of the 34th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 9 June 2015, at 3 p.m.

President: Ms. Mejía Vélez (Vice-President) ..... (Colombia)

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Dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the United Nations development system (session IV)

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In the absence of Mr. Sajdik (Austria), Ms. Mejía Vélez (Colombia), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

Dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the United Nations development system (session IV)

1. **The President** recalled that the Council, in its resolution 2014/14, had decided to convene a transparent and inclusive dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the post-2015 development agenda, including the interlinkages between the alignment of functions, funding practices, governance structures, organizational arrangements, capacity and impact, and partnership approaches. The outcome of the dialogue would serve as input to the 2016 quadrennial comprehensive policy review. Since the Council had now reached the end of the first phase of the dialogue process, it was an opportune moment to take stock of progress and look to the future.

2. The dialogue process had thus far included three formal sessions, which had taken place at the 5th, 6th, 8th and 9th meetings of the Council's current session, together with four informal workshops, a civil society briefing and a high-level retreat. Many background papers had also been prepared by independent experts, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Development Group. Participation in all of the meetings had been high, resulting in an improved understanding on the part of Member States of the current state of affairs in the United Nations development system and the likely implications of the post-2015 development agenda for the Organization's work for development.

3. Certain strategic priority issues had emerged from the first phase of the dialogue process. First of all, clarity on the emerging functions of the United Nations development system in the post-2015 era was critical for ensuring alignment with the other five areas that were the focus of the dialogue. Based on discussions in the first phase of the dialogue, the United Nations development system could be expected to continue to provide comprehensive support across a wide range of areas to least developed and low-income countries and those in humanitarian and conflict-affected situations, as well as to provide ongoing high-quality normative and technical assistance to middle-income countries. The universal nature of the post-2015 development agenda would also have implications for functions in high-income countries. A study should be conducted to analyse those implications, especially for the work of the United Nations development system in middle-income and high-income countries. In the post-2015 era, the importance of supporting developing countries to address global development challenges could be expected to grow. Several new functions — such as strengthening support to South-South and triangular cooperation; leveraging partnerships for sustainable development; strengthening integrated policy advocacy; and fostering strategic innovations and learning in development — were emerging in the United Nations development system, which reflected growing demand from Member States as well as the requirements of the post-2015 development agenda.

4. Second, the current funding architecture of United Nations operational activities had become too unbalanced and was not conducive to strengthening the normative, leveraging and convening role of the United Nations development system that was required in the post-2015 era. There was therefore a need to explore more systematically innovative models to improve the volume and predictability of core funding for United Nations operational activities, such as negotiated voluntary pledges and an indicative scale of voluntary core funding. The quality of non-core resources should also be improved and more innovative ways should be found to fund the United Nations development system.

5. Third, the effectiveness of system-wide governance in the United Nations development system must be improved, including through strengthening the role of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review resolution of the General Assembly. There was also recognition that in the second phase of the dialogue, priority should be accorded to improving the equity, representation and effectiveness of participation in governance by Member States and non-State constituencies, as well as the capacity and working methods of governing bodies in the United Nations development system.

6. Fourth, the United Nations development system would require differentiated country presence models in the post-2015 era in order to meet in an effective way the needs of programme countries at different levels of development. Moreover, the comprehensive nature of the post-2015 development agenda would require a significant strengthening of system-wide

results-based planning in the United Nations development system.

7. Fifth, cost-effective measurement of agency and system-wide results in programme countries would require the United Nations development system to adopt a more coherent results-based management system across all entities. The system would also require a well-trained, well-equipped workforce that was mobile and motivated to work for one United Nations. Moreover, the United Nations development system would need to fully utilize national capacities, systems and institutions in the delivery of the post-2015 development agenda, including in the areas of procurement, financial management, monitoring, reporting and evaluation.

8. Sixth, successful realization of the post-2015 development agenda would require partnerships to be strengthened between Governments, civil society, the private sector, international organizations and other relevant actors. The United Nations development system was well placed to serve as the convener of such multi-stakeholder partnerships. It was therefore important to examine what kind of inter-agency arrangements, intergovernmental oversight mechanisms and other organizational measures were needed to help ensure that such partnerships operated in an effective and transparent manner.

9. It went without saying that deliberations on those six strategic priority issues during the second phase of the Council's dialogue process would need to be informed by high-quality analytical work. As the dialogue process moved forward, it would also be necessary to ensure that it was taken to a higher political level through the outcome of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda in September 2015. The summit outcome must inject new political momentum into the process of strengthening the United Nations development system. In addition, it would be important during the second phase to enlist the support of a group of high-level strategic thinkers and experts to assist Member States in concretizing, analysing and prioritizing options for that process.

10. **Mr. Carrera Castro** (Guatemala) said that, concerning the six priorities to which the President had referred, it was vital to be clear about the universality of the post-2015 development agenda and the activities of the Organization, which implied challenges with regard to the functions of the United Nations system. A study reflecting on the role of the United Nations in high- and middle-income countries would be valuable.

11. One significant strategic role of the United Nations was to serve as a forum to strengthen the capacity of national systems and institutions. Ways must be found to ensure that the United Nations could support innovation and the capacity of national systems to fulfil commitments and goals. The Organization also had a strategic role to play in helping countries to address the need for changes in social behaviour, since the post-2015 agenda required behavioural changes on the part of both consumers and producers, not just changes in policy. Furthermore, the United Nations must lead efforts to convene and coordinate actions, for which it had unique credibility and legitimacy. It should also open up to various partners, such as civil society and the private sector.

12. Lastly, in the architecture being developed, it was important to strengthen the role of regional organizations, which had been growing in importance over recent years. The Organization needed to share its leadership role with them, with different tasks assigned at the national, regional and international levels.

13. **Mr. de Aguiar Patriota** (Brazil) said that, at the current time of transition, more in-depth reflection was required on the actual functioning of the United Nations development cooperation system, including positive and negative aspects and what needed to be revisited in view of the adoption of the post-2015 agenda.

14. As the agenda encompassed all sorts of public policy areas at the national, regional and international levels, the silo approach that had been typical of United Nations activities must be overcome. A huge transformation was required in the approach to system-wide coordination among development actors, including a review of how activities within the United Nations were funded.

15. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review should be made simpler, as it was very baroque and complex. There were too many resolutions and mandates in relation to that review, involving a great deal of minutiae, which resulted in a situation that was almost counterproductive. Countries must be able to see the issues more easily, so as to encourage change.

16. There was a need to rebalance governance so that both developed and developing countries could provide guidance and leadership on a more equal basis with respect to the delivery and formulation of international development cooperation within the United Nations system as a whole. Some bodies had too many representatives from the North. That had made sense when the donor-recipient relationship in relation to official development assistance (ODA) had been more clearly established. However, development was currently moving towards a more universal agenda that was not necessarily North-South in approach, and the governance structure should therefore have better representation from both the North and the South.

17. While some countries of the North claimed that perhaps they had more representation because they took more interest in development cooperation matters than the countries of the South, they also had more capacity and greater knowledge, owing to the preponderance of non-core funding. Eighty per cent of all development cooperation funding was currently non-core, earmarked funding, which led to a bilateralization of the funding of activities within the system and fragmentation of the governance structure, making it more difficult for Member States who were not donors to follow what was going on, while donor countries retained a lot of power as to how their money was spent.

18. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review did not currently include the 24 United Nations agencies. It was important that those actors on the ground in different countries could participate in the alignment exercise associated with that review. Member States had been asked if they thought that delivering as one was a solution to improve coordination. While it might work in some countries, the system needed to be flexible. There was no one-size-fits-all formula. Delivering as one was generally led by the resident coordinator, who usually worked with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). That person had the prerogative to define outcomes and delivery and was the sole representative dealing with the national Government, which could dilute the role and capacity of agencies, other funds and programmes and other actors, such as non-governmental organizations and private entities. The UNDP prerogative in the "Delivering as one" approach should not dwarf other agencies' legitimate roles and their capacity to fund and support activities on the ground.

19. While the agencies had fewer resources than did the funds and programmes, they had more budgeted funding and were more intergovernmental in nature. As a result, their mandates were stronger and more legitimate, being an expression of the collective will of the States Members of the United Nations, than activities stemming from non-core or bilateralized types of funding, which might not be fully aligned with the mandates adopted and negotiated by Member States. The associated issue of legitimacy and governance thus needed to be addressed.

20. Coordination within the United Nations system was often beyond the reach of Member States. For example, the heads of agencies, funds and programmes, together with the Secretary-General, attended the meetings of the Chief Executives Board, but there was no access by Member States to those discussions. A better interface was needed between such types of internal system-wide coordination mechanisms, on the one hand, and Member States, on the other.

21. Partnership with non-governmental organizations and the private sector was a new area that required a better accountability structure. Complex resolutions must be simplified. The system must match the forward-looking and transformational approach of the sustainable development goals, which applied to both the North and the South. The interconnectedness of issues and United Nations actors, recognized in all relevant documents, was a critical new element that made it necessary for all actors to fully coordinate their work.

22. **Ms. Wang** Hongbo (China) said that the first phase of the dialogue had paved the way for the next phase, providing a solid foundation for future work. The discussions held to date would feed into the intergovernmental process leading to the endorsement of the post-2015 agenda in September 2015. The entire dialogue process would be guided and, to an extent, mandated by that agenda, with the sustainable development goals at its core. All countries would strive to achieve those goals, given their universal nature. Developing and programme countries would increasingly take leadership and ownership of their national implementation of the goals and the development agenda. Those dynamics would drive the

discussion and the reform process of the United Nations development system, which was a critical partner in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the sustainable development goals. It must build upon its success and be willing to establish trust-based partnerships with developing countries and all stakeholders. The continued relevance, success and effectiveness of the system would ultimately depend on its ability to be both flexible and well-coordinated in delivering international development cooperation based on universality and neutrality, which were central to its legitimacy.

23. **Mr. Minami** (Japan) said there was an emerging consensus that, before considering funding, governance, structural arrangements or any other issues, it was necessary to think about the expected functions of the United Nations development system. Deliberations on the post-2015 development agenda provided a critical opportunity for the international community to consider how all stakeholders should cooperate effectively and efficiently to achieve sustainable development. In thinking about the functions of the United Nations development system, it should be borne in mind that the United Nations could not achieve the sustainable development goals on its own. The comparative advantages of the system, including its legitimacy, neutrality, global reach and convening power, should be considered.

24. There had been a strong call for predictable, flexible and adequate funding. While core resources were important, non-core resources would continue to make up a large share of total funding. The United Nations development system and Member States should continue working to utilize non-core resources in a more flexible manner and avoid a silo approach. While trust funds and vertical funds would also contribute to funding the system, it was important not to keep on creating new funds in response to every issue, as that would lead to more fragmentation. The United Nations development system should also continue efforts to broaden its donor base in order to increase core resources.

25. The need to strengthen system-wide governance in order to improve coherence should not entail the creation of a new governance system; instead, the existing system should continue to be improved. Governance was an issue closely related to funding, as it could provide an incentive or a disincentive for Member States to increase their contributions. Care should therefore be taken not to rush reforms, which could lead to a decrease in total contributions. Rather, it would be wise to incentivize Member States to increase their contributions by providing appropriate status to those countries that provided substantial contributions.

26. Making immediate drastic changes to the organizational arrangements of the system would be difficult and unnecessary. Further promotion of the "Delivering as one" approach, standard operating procedures and strengthening of the resident coordinator system were practical steps that could make a difference in the field in terms of system-wide coherence, effectiveness and efficiency.

27. **Ms. Ritchie** (United Kingdom) said that there must be an emerging consensus on functions before organizational arrangements, governance and funding could be discussed. The dialogue was helping to achieve that consensus. When moving ahead with the next phase, it was important to bear in mind the interlinkages between functions, funding, governance, capacity and partnership, all of which had already been discussed. For example, governance could not be discussed separately from funding.

28. As the Council sought to direct the United Nations development system and determine how best it could contribute to achieving the new development agenda, political momentum needed to be injected into the second phase of the dialogue, and further United Nations and independent expertise should be engaged to analyse options and establish priorities.

29. **Mr. Chandra** (Observer for Indonesia) said that the urgent need to transform the United Nations development system had been clear from the beginning of the first phase of the dialogue. The system must be flexible and capable of supporting Member States in the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

30. Some of the issues that had arisen during the first phase were pertinent to the next steps. First, while the United Nations development system must refashion itself to facilitate follow-up to and review of the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda and provide effective support to countries in achieving the sustainable development goals, it was clear that the regional dimension should be strengthened in order to respond to challenges that transcended national

boundaries. Second, there was a convergence of views regarding the need for sustainable, predictable and flexible funding, along with system-wide strategic planning and transparent mapping of the funding situation

31. Third, on governance, a profound adjustment of the United Nations system was fundamental in order for the United Nations development system to fulfil the functions expected of it. Representation of developing countries in the governing bodies of the United Nations development system should be strengthened as a priority, and supported with capacity-building, to enhance the effectiveness of the system.

32. Fourth, Member States had recognized the need for new organizational arrangements that took into account varied country contexts, needs, capacities and partnerships, including the changing role of diverse development actors. The United Nations development system should place more emphasis on national capacity development to adapt to the global architecture.

33. The role of the United Nations development system in developing countries should be clarified, including its role in supporting South-South cooperation. Funding should be matched to country development priorities, including support for capacity-building and technology transfer.

34. **Ms. Kern** (Germany) said that, because the United Nations had capacity and legitimacy to address global challenges that no single Member State had on its own, it should be a pivotal actor in the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda. However, its role should not be taken for granted. The United Nations faced strong competition from other actors. In order to make the Organization fit for purpose and to have a strong United Nations development system in the interest of all States, possible reforms should be discussed.

35. Germany welcomed the analytical categories proposed in the first phase of the dialogue, as well as the classification of the nine functions that had been introduced in an independent expert paper on capacity, impact and partnerships. The function described as "direct action and operational work for filling gaps in exceptional situations" was an interesting new dimension. There was a need to focus on the comparative advantages of the United Nations development system as reflected in those nine functions. Partnership approaches were also indispensable to the discussion on the future functioning of the United Nations development system. The transparency of the Organization's partnership efforts should be ensured, and accountability should be enhanced within the various partnership activities.

36. Discussing the changing institutional landscape was a challenging and sensitive task. Organizational arrangements were essential for making the United Nations fit for purpose. Radical changes were neither feasible nor positive. As others had noted, some functions and institutions were ready to be consolidated and merged. More of the same would not work. Member States might require the support of independent high-level experts in elaborating concrete options for the future of the United Nations development system.

37. **Mr. Erdman** (United States of America) said that, at its creation 70 years earlier, no one had imagined that the United Nations would become a major development cooperation actor in developing countries. However, over the years, the structure, scope and demands placed on the United Nations development system had grown, sometimes resulting in duplication. The system had evolved to match the expectations of its users, both donor and programme countries. The post-2015 era would usher in a new stage in that process of adaptation and refinement.

38. The system must focus on its comparative advantages, including its unique role as a multilateral organization with universal legitimacy, neutrality, focus on national ownership and leadership, global reach and convening power. The new paradigm for cooperation would no longer be that of one region giving resources and advice to another. Instead, countries from all corners of the globe would work together as partners to achieve common goals. The United Nations must therefore become more coordinated, and its core pillars must become mutually reinforcing, rather than competitive and overlapping.

39. As many had noted, the form of the United Nations development system should follow its function, with its structure designed around the tasks involved in helping Member States to implement the goals of the post-2015 development agenda. For example, if the United Nations development system was to continue playing its unique role in fragile States and those affected by crisis, coordinating humanitarian

and development efforts in some of the world's most difficult locations, it would be necessary to determine how best to deliver those services and then redesign the agencies to provide them in the most efficient manner.

40. The work of the United Nations development system must also become more differentiated in the post-2015 era. Some rapidly developing emerging countries were amassing more financial, intellectual and human resources than ever before, and the United Nations development system should therefore provide different services in different contexts. For example, in middle-income countries, the United Nations should provide policy advice, support coherence, leverage financial resources and expertise, and set norms and standards, while in least developed countries it would still need to play a more active role in delivering programmes, strengthening government capacity and convening the necessary resources and partnerships to help achieve national development goals. In both contexts, it had a critical role to play in promoting South-South and triangular cooperation, which would become increasingly important under the new agenda.

41. Function should drive funding, with different aspects of the United Nations development system funded through different modalities. The post-2015 era presented a unique opportunity for Member States and the United Nations development system to comprehensively review the funding architecture and design one that better supported the new functions. The new funding architecture should reflect the changing development landscape, in which more funding capacity and more able partners were available than ever before.

42. Partnerships with multiple stakeholders would be critical to mobilizing the resources needed to address future development challenges. Ideas on how the United Nations could best harness the vast potential of partnerships, while reassuring Member States on quality assurance and the accountability of non-State partners, would be important. The possibility of expanding issue-based coalitions as key partners for implementing the sustainable development goals remained interesting. Lessons learned in using partnerships to leverage influence and incubate change should be fed back into the system to promote better practices across the United Nations. It was crucial to determine the key steps the United Nations development system needed to take to promote and expand effective partnerships.

43. There was a readiness to take a sincere and comprehensive look at what type of governance arrangements would best suit the needs of the post-2015 development agenda. One proposal had been to devolve governance and exercise of operational activities to the country level, while another had envisaged a much more coordinated system-wide governance of operational activities. Such ideas would be further explored.

44. While the United Nations was currently the largest multilateral partner of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development/Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC) countries, that might not always be the case. It could not be assumed that donor countries would always give hundreds of millions of dollars to the United Nations for development work, or that programme countries would look to the United Nations as the primary partner for implementing that work. Other actors, including non-governmental organizations, foundations, philanthropists, divisions of private companies and multi-stakeholder partnerships, were carrying out much of the same work and providing many of the same services that the United Nations development system had historically done. The system must adapt to remain relevant.

45. With regard to capacity, the United Nations must be able to maintain a staff of exceptional international civil servants in order to be able to deliver the sophisticated policy guidance that many countries increasingly demanded. Consistent, high-quality, results-based management and detailed results reporting were also important to track impact. The annual session of the executive boards of the funds and programmes of the United Nations system had showcased the superior quality of the results that UNDP and the United Nations Population Fund were currently able to report as they detailed progress against their strategic plans. Such results indicated that the system was adapting in necessary ways.

46. **Ms. von Steiger Weber** (Switzerland) said that the United Nations needed to adapt and become fit for purpose to face the major changes envisaged as part of the post-2015 development agenda. While many experts had in the past proposed reforms of the United Nations development system, few reforms had actually been undertaken. With Member States leading the

dialogue, the outcome could be different, representing a solid basis for the changes collectively sought.

47. The structure of the dialogue, which had examined highly interdependent topics, had been challenging yet very interesting. The format, entailing interactive dialogue and high-quality discussion, had been a success. Use of the Chatham House Rule had allowed participants to be open and frank while still at the stocktaking and brainstorming stages. The summaries of individual workshops and retreats and the report on the first phase of the dialogue provided an excellent basis for the second phase. The report clearly set forth the main issues to be addressed, noting that the post-2015 development agenda and other drivers of change posed a significantly different challenge and higher level of ambition for the United Nations development system than the MDGs. The United Nations development system should focus on those functions that the Organization was best qualified to perform in support of Member States as they implemented the post-2015 agenda.

48. The report showed that Member States would make high demands on the United Nations development system. However, it also stated that there was an issue with funding. Any next step would therefore require thorough and honest discussion driven by Member States on what the United Nations development system could leave up to other actors, so that the system could concentrate on those aspects for which it alone had legitimacy, such as supporting and implementing multilaterally agreed norms.

49. The next phase of the dialogue would be challenging. Key topics would be selected and it would be necessary to clarify and agree on certain issues for the next quadrennial comprehensive policy review, which should represent a system-wide strategy for the United Nations development system. A combination of inputs from Member States, who best knew the challenges but might fear change, and external input from experts and consultants, represented the best way to prepare for the next quadrennial comprehensive policy review.

50. **Mr. Gave** (France) said that the current juncture, when the United Nations was marking its seventieth anniversary and Member States were preparing to adopt the new post-2015 development agenda, was an opportunity to think about both past and future. The post-2015 agenda was an integrated and very ambitious approach to development that was, for the first time, universal. Its scope was enormous, addressing far-reaching development issues, as well as new fields, including good governance and gender, and public goods such as climate and oceans. Consequently, it placed pressure not only States and societies, but also on the whole United Nations system.

51. The credibility and the future of the United Nations were based on the collective success of the international community in achieving the agenda. The United Nations development system could not fail to take advantage of the opportunity and should continue to play a major role in the area of development. France supported the six strategic priorities to which the President had referred, in particular those of aligning functions to comparative advantages; identifying different funding modalities for different functions; strengthening integrated mechanisms; and ensuring the effectiveness of organizational arrangements. To meet those challenges, the United Nations system must ensure coherence, effectiveness and evaluation.

52. On the issue of coherence, there was a need to improve coordination between the various components of the United Nations and the definition of their strategic programmes, right down to implementation on the ground, based on a strengthened "Delivering as one" approach. New types of coordination were needed to achieve the sustainable development goals. For example, coordinating strategic planning tools at the system level was an interesting proposal. The establishment of groups of organizations for the purpose of achieving common objectives using joint programming and implementation modalities could also be considered. Incentive mechanisms could be created to achieve heightened coordination. Synergies between the United Nations and all other development actors, including bilateral, multilateral, governmental and non-governmental actors, should be strengthened. The Council would have a special role to play; in that regard, the reform of the Council and the establishment of the high-level political forum on sustainable development must be put at the service of the strategic coordination of United Nations development activities.

53. With regard to effectiveness, more and better work could be done, in a context of budgetary pressure, only if resources were used to the utmost. Sustainability and budgetary effectiveness must guide the Organization more than ever, for the benefit of all. A silo mentality had often prevailed in implementation

of the MDGs, which had sometimes led to a loss of effectiveness. It was therefore vital to end fragmentation, share resources, identify redundant bodies or activities, and merge them where possible. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review resolution to be adopted in 2016 could help achieve such rationalization, since it would apply to the whole United Nations system.

54. The evaluation of results must be systematized. There was a need to assess progress in the field — not only with regard to fixed objectives, but also in terms of resources allocated — as well as at the institutional level. Organizations must assess their effectiveness and transparently report the results to donors; they should also use such evaluation to achieve reform and reorganization.

55. The current dialogue and intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 agenda must be linked. In that regard, it was essential that the outcome document on the post-2015 development agenda should mention the need for adaptation of the United Nations development system. Member States must send a strong signal in that regard.

56. **Mr. Lennartsson** (Sweden) said that Member States were increasingly agreeing that what was under discussion was a potentially very ambitious reform agenda that went beyond system-wide coherence and delivering as one. It was necessary to have a human development system that was well positioned to deliver effectively on the post-2015 agenda and could provide real support to Member States at different levels of development. Adaptation would no doubt be necessary. The matter should be of concern to all Member States. The dialogue concerning reform would intensify further during the seventieth session of the General Assembly, as Member States looked ahead to the adoption of the next quadrennial comprehensive policy review resolution in 2016.

57. The strategic exchange with the United Nations development system must be deepened, for there could be no reform unless that system was fully engaged. High-level political engagement would be needed. Sweden would continue to call for the inclusion of a clear reference to the longer-term positioning of the United Nations development system in the political declaration of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda. It would be useful to bring to the attention of the co-facilitators of the post-2015 process the results of the dialogue so far. The upcoming summit could usefully inject political energy into the next phase of the dialogue.

58. **Mr. Vestrheim** (Observer for Norway) said that the summary of key messages of the first phase of the dialogue reflected the discussions well. The six strategic priorities constituted important pillars for the second phase. He agreed with previous speakers that the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda should clearly refer to the need for a repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the new agenda.

59. The least developed countries must be heard during the second phase of the dialogue, so that the United Nations could better provide support to those Member States most in need of its assistance. The Organization was expected to play a broader and more critical role in that area than in other development contexts.

60. **Mr. Stokes** (Australia), speaking also on behalf of Canada, said that the question of functions much be resolved before discussion continued on other matters, both in relation to the agencies, funds and programmes themselves, and in relation to their governance structures, in particular the executive boards. Before the issue of the reform of governance structures could be effectively addressed, it was vital to ask what was not working and why. Case studies could help to ensure a simpler and more strategic governance system and more closely scrutinize working methods throughout the system.

61. Coherence was of paramount importance, not only between development actors but across the United Nations system as a whole and among all partners. There was a need for the United Nations to help bridge the gaps between development and humanitarian response, long-term resilience, disaster risk reduction, climate, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, in order to ensure holistic responses by the United Nations and the international community.

62. While his delegation agreed that the dialogue process would be guided by the need to adjust to the post-2015 agenda, other outcomes, such as that of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Addis Ababa, and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,

as well as the outcomes of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, also needed to be taken into account. The voices of the least developed countries, landlocked developing States and small island developing States must be heard throughout the process.

63. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review resolution was indeed baroque. There was a need for simplification throughout the whole process, since there were limited numbers of staff working on those issues in the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, and the more cumbersome the intergovernmental or reporting processes, the less time remained for coordination activities or support to country offices. It was necessary to find the right balance, engage strategically with the United Nations development system and ensure that everything, throughout the whole system, became less cumbersome, not more so.

64. **Mr. Marobe** (South Africa), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Council's dialogue must bear fruit in the quest for a transformed United Nations development system that was better equipped to address challenges, especially in developing countries. The Group had high expectations as to what would be accomplished as a result of the dialogue. Funds, programmes and agencies must adapt to a new post-2015 development landscape, in which poverty eradication in all its forms would have to be achieved through capacity-building, technology transfer and strengthened international cooperation. In that connection, UNDP should increase the human and financial resources allocated to the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, so that it could carry out its mandate effectively. Furthermore, Member States should be allowed to provide inputs to the report of the Secretary-General for submission to the special intersessional meeting of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, which would be held in September 2015.

65. The role of United Nations operational activities for development and the Organization's capacity to assist developing countries in achieving their development goals ought to be scaled up and significantly strengthened, which would require continued improvements in effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and impact, as well as a significant increase in core resources. Operational activities addressing long-term development challenges should take into account the need to promote national capacity-building in developing countries. For developing countries to address national priorities and achieve internationally agreed development goals, continuous capacity-building was required, to which the United Nations development system could make significant contributions. The United Nations system should therefore make optimal use of available expertise by enabling and facilitating access of recipient countries to the full range of services available throughout the system, including those offered by the regional commissions. The urgency of the need to address poverty in all its forms could not be overemphasized. Poverty eradication, the greatest global challenge, should be considered the highest priority and the fundamental objective of the United Nations development system, which should pursue that objective through appropriately targeted and clearly focused programmes and projects. The regular reports of United Nations funds and programmes to the Council should include accounts of efforts made in accordance with their mandates; the scaling up of efforts to address root causes of poverty and hunger; and the sharing of good practices and lessons learned.

66. The Group attached great importance to General Assembly resolution 69/238 which, in particular, underlined the need to better reflect the multidimensional nature of development and poverty, as well as the importance of developing a common understanding among Member States and other stakeholders of that multidimensionality and reflecting it in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

67. Owing to their untied and predictable nature, core resources remained the bedrock of operational activities for development in the United Nations system. It was a matter of concern that the percentage of core resources, as well as overall funding for operational activities in the United Nations development system, had declined. There should be a balance between core and non-core resources. Core resources should not be used to subsidize non-core extrabudgetary activities. The guiding principle in financing all non-programme costs should be based on full cost recovery proportionately from core and non-core funding sources. All development system entities should consider the post-2015 development agenda in the context of midterm reviews and elaboration of

strategic plans and frameworks to ensure consistency and alignment with that agenda.

68. Geographical and gender diversity were needed in the composition of the resident coordinator system. The governing structures of the United Nations funds and programmes should also be engaged in constructive dialogue with a view to achieving much-needed reform in that area to ensure the diversity of the system.

69. The United Nations development system must ensure that reports to the Governments of programme countries were structured around the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). The reports should be linked to results and should inform the Governments concerned of the overall results achieved by United Nations country teams. As part of his regular reporting to the Council, the Secretary-General ought to provide updates on progress in that regard.

70. **Mr. Crilchuk** (Argentina) said that the post-2015 development agenda was ambitious and transformative, requiring implementation methods that were fit for purpose and a coordinated United Nations system. There was a need to address the existing imbalance between core and non-core resources. Core resources must be on a scale that enabled mandates to be carried out efficiently, since only the United Nations system was in a position to see what funds were needed by each fund, programme, board or other entity.

71. Funds, programmes and other entities should listen and take into account developing countries' needs, so as to avoid imposing unnecessary activities on them. The relationship between the resident coordinator and the national Government was important in order for the resident coordinator to understand and address the country's needs. The regional economic commissions also played an important role. The outstanding work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) had, for example, always been very useful to the Governments in question. Other bodies were also doing excellent work and were a valuable source of information regarding the needs of each region.

72. **Mr. Gujubo Gutulo** (Observer for Ethiopia) said that as a developing country and the host of the upcoming International Conference on Financing for Development, Ethiopia wished to stress that developing countries would need considerable support from the international community to make a smooth transition from the MDGs to the sustainable development goals. It was important to have a strong, effective and coherent United Nations system, especially in order to support national capacity-building in the context of the sustainable development goals. The dynamic nature of the national situation in many developing countries meant that partnership and multilateralism were particularly effective. Moreover, given the dynamic nature of the world situation, including with regard to such issues as climate change and other uncontrolled situations, a universal response was important. The present dialogue on the long-term positioning of the United Nations development system could make a big difference. A smooth transition from the MDGs to the sustainable development goals was very important for Ethiopia and other developing countries.

73. **Mr. Hanif** (Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination, Department of Economic and Social Affairs) said that his Office would work with the Council to convene a group of independent experts to contribute to the second phase of the dialogue process. It was to be hoped that the outcome of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda would engage individuals at the political level to provide the momentum that the dialogue needed to address the upcoming anticipated changes to the United Nations development system.

The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.

United Nations E/2015/SR.35

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Third coordination and management meeting

Summary record of the 35th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 10 June 2015, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. Oh Joon (Vice-President) ..... (Republic of Korea)

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In the absence of Mr. Sajdik (Austria), Mr. Oh Joon (Republic of Korea), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(c) Statistics (E/2015/24)

1. **Mr. Pullinger** (United Kingdom), Chair of the Statistical Commission, speaking via video link from London, introduced the report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-sixth session (E/2015/24). Reviewing a number of key issues covered in the report, he said that the main topic of the session had been data in support of the post-2015 development agenda. In that regard, the Commission had endorsed the formation of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, which had met for the first time on 1 and 2 June 2015. A second meeting of the Expert Group was scheduled for October 2015. The Commission had also discussed issues related to the data revolution, particularly the issue of big data, and had discussed and taken decisions in areas that included crime statistics, refugee statistics, household surveys, national accounts, international trade and economic globalization statistics, environmental-economic accounting, governance, peace and security statistics, and agriculture and rural statistics.

2. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69/282, the second World Statistics Day would be celebrated on 20 October 2015 under the general theme "Better data, better lives". The resolution also provided that World Statistics Day would be celebrated every five years on 20 October.

3. Drawing the attention of the Council to the draft resolution contained in the report, entitled "2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme", he said that population and housing censuses formed the foundation of national statistical systems and were a valuable source of information for national planning. The Commission launched world population and housing census programmes every 10 years. The 2010 World Population and Census Programme had covered 214 countries and some 97 per cent of the world's population, which had been a truly remarkable achievement. He strongly encouraged the Council to adopt the draft resolution with a view to building on that success.

Action on recommendations contained in the report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-sixth session (E/2015/24)

4. **The President** invited the Council to take action on the draft proposals contained in chapter I, sections A and B, of the report (E/2015/24).

Section A

Draft resolution: 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme

Section B

Draft decision: Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-sixth session and the provisional agenda and dates for the forty-seventh session of the Commission

5. *The draft resolution and the draft decision were adopted.*

Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(a) Sustainable development (E/2015/33)

6. **Mr. Ocampo** (Chair of the Committee for Development Policy) introducing the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its seventeenth session (E/2015/33), said that, at the session, the Committee had addressed the following themes: accountability for the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda; the triennial review of the category of least developed countries; monitoring of countries that were graduating and had graduated from the list of least developed countries; review and fine-tuning of the human assets index of the criteria for the identification of those countries; and the strengthening of implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action).

7. At the 2015 triennial review of least developed countries, the Committee had found one country eligible for inclusion in the list of those countries. The Committee had not recommended its inclusion, however, as that was contrary to the wishes of the country concerned. Meanwhile, 10 countries had been found eligible for graduation from the least developed country category. Angola had been deemed eligible for the second consecutive time and the Committee had recommended its graduation. Kiribati had also been found eligible for the second consecutive time, but had not been recommended for graduation, owing in

particular to concerns about the sustainability of its income level in view of its acute vulnerability; the Committee would revisit a possible recommendation for its graduation at the 2018 triennial review. Five countries had met the eligibility criteria for graduation for the first time, namely Bhutan, Sao Tome and Principe, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste and Nepal. Those countries had been notified of the findings and would be considered for graduation at the 2018 triennial review. Tuvalu had been recommended by the Committee for graduation in 2012. The Council had postponed consideration of that recommendation but would address the issue again in 2015. The Committee had, moreover, reviewed the development progress of Equatorial Guinea and Vanuatu, both earmarked for graduation in 2017. The Committee had advised Equatorial Guinea to formulate and implement a transition strategy to improve the health and education of its people so as to achieve more balanced social and economic development. Vanuatu continued to achieve steady income growth and improve its human assets; however, the Committee noted with concern the devastating consequences of cyclone Pam, which had hit the country in March 2015, raising uncertainty about the country's near-term development outlook. Several other countries were approaching graduation thresholds, including Myanmar, which was expected to meet the criteria for graduation in the near future, provided it maintained its current robust growth and steady improvement in human assets.

8. The Committee had also reviewed the development progress of countries that had graduated from the least developed country category. In that regard, Maldives and Samoa had continued to achieve steady development progress although they remained structurally vulnerable, particularly to environmental shocks. The Committee reiterated the importance of the international community providing vulnerable countries with concessional financing for climate change adaptation, and had recommended the use of its economic vulnerability index for the allocation of new climate finance, independently of whether or not countries met the criteria for classification as a least developed country.

9. In preparation for future triennial reviews of the list of least developed countries, the Committee had re-examined the human assets index, to which it had decided to add the maternal mortality ratio, the inclusion of which would facilitate the identification of structural impediments to sustainable development. The Committee would continue to examine other elements of the index and fine-tune them as necessary.

10. The current pace of progress of many least developed countries was not fast enough to meet the target set in the Istanbul Programme of Action of enabling half the number of least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020. In particular, many continued to face challenges related to their domestic resources mobilization. Although the landscape of development financing had changed significantly and new sources and modalities of public and private financing had emerged, access by the majority of least developed countries to those resources remained very limited and only a few had successfully attracted international private capital flows, such as foreign direct investment, portfolio investment and loans. Official development assistance (ODA) therefore played a critical role in financing for development in those countries. Donor countries that had not yet fulfilled their ODA commitments to the least developed countries should establish credible paths for doing so and should, during the transitional process, define public commitments around a minimum floor of their ODA budgets to be allocated to the least developed countries.

11. Donors needed to improve their compliance with the principles agreed in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, particularly by strengthening ownership by recipient countries of donor-supported activities and aligning donor activities with local priorities and procedures. Donors should also take into account differences in countries' needs and their capacity to access other sources of financing and mobilize domestic resources. There was a need for increased support for the financing of certain strategic international public goods, particularly agricultural research and development which could have a significant positive impact on the development progress of the majority of least developed countries. South-South cooperation could also play an important role in that regard.

12. **Mr. Lynn** (Observer for Myanmar) said that since taking office in 2011, the civilian Government of his country had launched wide-ranging administrative, political, economic and social reforms and was implementing a series of short-, medium- and long-term development plans. His Government was confident that Myanmar would soon graduate from the

least developed country category and was encouraged by the assessment of the Committee for Development Policy in that regard. A committee had been established, chaired by the country's Vice-President, to oversee efforts to implement the process required for graduation. The Government was also formulating a master plan to facilitate graduation, and had drawn up a Comprehensive National Development Plan to foster sustainable development, boost the country's human asset index and gross national income, and reduce its long-term economic vulnerability. The Government, which aspired to establish a knowledge-based economy, was strengthening its cooperation with international development partners and United Nations agencies. It warmly welcomed the recent visits to the country by senior United Nations officials and particularly appreciated the assistance provided by the United Nations Development Programme in the area of data assessment. In that connection, the results of the 2014 Population and Housing Census for Myanmar, the first of its kind in the country in over three decades, had been made available in May 2015. His Government looked forward to receiving further financial and technical support from its development partners — a key prerequisite for the country's development and its smooth transition from least developed country status.

Draft resolution E/2015/L.13: *Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its seventeenth session*

13. **The President** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

14. **Mr. Lim** Hoon-Min (Republic of Korea), facilitator, said that, following constructive informal consultations, consensus had been achieved on the draft resolution.

15. *Draft resolution* E/2015/L.13 *was adopted.*

Coordination, programme and other questions (*continued*)

(a) Reports of coordination bodies (E/2015/71)

16. **Ms. Petrova** (Acting Secretary, United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination), introducing the annual overview report of the Chief Executives Board for 2014 (E/2015/71) and updating the Council on the Board's first regular session of 2015, said that the Board had continued its efforts to foster policy coherence and coordination throughout the United Nations system in support of Member States' priorities. In particular, it had focused on promoting system-wide preparations for and follow-up to United Nations conferences and summits; strengthening policy coherence and coordination, specifically in the areas of urbanization, youth employment, climate change and cybercrime and cybersecurity; improving the administration and management functions of the United Nations system; and enhancing the effectiveness and impact of United Nations operational activities for development, in line with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review.

17. In 2014, the Board had reviewed the implementation of selected Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in six countries, namely Benin, Colombia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Pakistan, the Philippines and Yemen. Board members had pledged to scale up support and strengthen coordination in those countries with a view to accelerating the achievement of the Goals. At its first regular session of 2015, the Board had conducted its fifth review of the implementation of the MDGs, focusing on Bangladesh, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Pacific Islands subregion. In total, the Board had now reviewed one subregion and 16 countries, which had all reported that the reviews had helped focus attention on specific Goals, strengthened engagement with national partners, and enhanced collaboration between United Nations country teams and World Bank teams on the ground.

18. The Board had sought to enhance United Nations system-wide coordination and policy coherence in preparation for the post-2015 development agenda by focusing on five interconnected elements that were crucial in efforts to foster sustainable development, namely universality, equality, human rights, integration and data. It had also endorsed a United Nations system-wide approach to data to enhance reporting by United Nations agencies, and had considered how the Organization could best support Member States' efforts to address climate change. In that regard, the Board had reaffirmed its resolve to become climate neutral by 2020.

19. The Board was considering a special cross-cutting support package for small island developing states in the areas of climate change, sustainable development goals and financing for development, with finance, resilience and energy as its main pillars. Work was also currently under way, in coordination

with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, to prepare a toolkit for further mainstreaming of the Istanbul Programme of Action into the work programmes of the United Nations system organizations.

20. The Board had sought to promote system-wide coordination in the preparation of and follow-up to United Nations conferences and summits, including in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III). The Board had also issued joint statements and papers in support of a number of conferences and summits, including the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. It had expanded its consideration of the regional dimensions of the issues on the Board's agenda and had deepened its engagement with the United Nations regional commissions.

21. The Board's three subsidiary bodies, namely the High-level Committee on Programmes, the High-level Committee on Management and the United Nations Development Group, had discussed how the United Nations system could respond effectively to Member States' call for a universal and integrated development agenda that could make optimal use of resources and expertise. Among its coordination efforts, the High-level Committee on Programmes had started work on a proposal for a United Nations system initiative on youth employment to promote greater policy coherence and coordination; it had also taken steps towards the launch of a global initiative on decent jobs for youth. With regard to operational matters, the United Nations Development Group had continued to afford highest priority to the coherent implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review resolution across the United Nations system, and had continued its efforts to promote operational coordination and effectiveness by developing a number of tools to guide country teams. The High-Level Committee on Management had continued to give particular priority to the harmonization and simplification of business practices. Inter alia, it had endorsed a road map on climate neutrality with a view to promoting the environmental sustainability of United Nations operations, and had approved an occupational health and safety framework, to be implemented in phases between 2015 and 2018, with a view to optimizing occupational safety and health conditions and working environments across the Organization.

22. **Ms. Derderian** (United States of America) said that her delegation welcomed the ongoing efforts of the Chief Executives Board to foster a coherent approach on policy, operational and management matters to enhance United Nations system-wide coordination. The work was leading to considerable savings in the area of procurement, and was helping organizations to work more effectively together at the country level. The Board should more actively encourage United Nations bodies to work with the United Nations Office for Project Services, which had a strong record of providing effective and efficient procurement services. Turning to finance and budget and risk management, she commended the High-Level Committee on Management, which had dedicated significant resources to supporting United Nations country teams in "Delivering as one" countries. In several of those countries, operational efficiency had been improved in such areas as collaborative procurement, common banking contracts and joint negotiation of foreign currency exchange rates. Her delegation encouraged other country teams to adopt the frameworks developed by the High-Level Committee on Management with a view to mainstreaming them across the entire United Nations system.

The meeting rose at 11.25 a.m.

United Nations E/2015/SR.36

Economic and Social Council

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Third coordination and management meeting

Summary record of the 36th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 10 June 2015, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. Oh Joon (Vice-President) ..... (Republic of Korea)

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* Items which the Council has decided to consider together.

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In the absence of Mr. Sajdik (Austria), Mr. Oh Joon (Republic of Korea), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*) (E/2015/80)

Requests from non-governmental organizations to be heard by the Economic and Social Council

1. **The President** drew attention to the requests from non-governmental organizations to be heard by the Economic and Social Council (E/2015/80). At its resumed 2015 session, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations had decided to recommend that the organizations mentioned in that document should be heard by the Council at the high-level segment of its 2015 session. He took it that the Council wished to adopt the Committee's recommendation.

2. *It was so decided.*

The role of the United Nations system in implementing the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council

Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (*continued*) (A/70/75-E/2015/55)

3. **Mr. Gass** (Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming of the three dimensions of sustainable development throughout the United Nations system (A/70/75-E/2015/55), submitted pursuant to the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want" (General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex), said that the report built on the findings contained in the 2013 and 2014 reports. Several important developments had taken place since the issuance of the 2014 report, including the second meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development — the first held under the auspices of the Council — the adoption of the proposal of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, the adoption of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway), the issuance of the Secretary-General's synthesis report on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda (A/69/700) and the launch of intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda. Those developments had given added urgency to the need to mainstream sustainable development approaches throughout the United Nations system.

4. The report currently before the Council recognized the impetus that the future sustainable development goals were providing to the United Nations system's efforts to adapt to the new agenda and adopt sustainable development approaches, with the overarching objective of helping countries to implement the goals at the national level. Inter-agency efforts to strengthen integration and mainstreaming were gaining momentum. The United Nations system had been reflecting on strategies to ensure environmental and social sustainability; strong analytical work had also been undertaken in support of the sustainable development goals.

5. The report analysed how the sustainable development goals, which could drive system-wide integration and mainstreaming, were interrelated through their targets. It placed a stronger focus than previous reports on strategic plans as a core instrument for mainstreaming integrated approaches and contained new analysis of country-level support. Furthermore, it looked at existing mechanisms for United Nations system accountability, the role of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review and what could be learned from Millennium Development Goals follow-up processes.

6. The report concluded with a number of recommendations. It was suggested, inter alia, that Member States should request the Secretary-General to map United Nations system support across the sustainable development goals and encourage reflection on how to ensure integrated and coordinated support that adequately reflected interrelations between the goals; invite the United Nations system and its governing bodies to assess the asymmetry between economic, social and environmental issues in their work; and encourage the United Nations system to implement the Environment Management Group framework for advancing environmental and social sustainability in the system.

7. Reporting on the progress achieved in implementing the priorities, commitments, partnerships and other activities of the small island developing

States, in accordance with the mandate given by the Samoa Pathway in General Assembly resolution 69/15, he said that the International Year of Small Island Developing States, which had concluded successfully in February 2015, had aimed to raise global awareness of the sustainable development challenges faced by small island developing States and to celebrate their rich cultural and natural heritage. Most importantly, the Year had helped to build momentum for the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States.

8. The implementation of the Samoa Pathway had become an important element in the strategic plans, work programmes and investment of regional and global intergovernmental organizations and the United Nations system, helping entities to align their activities to that end. The Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs had been tasked with monitoring implementation within the United Nations system while ensuring integrated follow-up to the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States and the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. Linkages were also being made with preparations for the third International Conference on Financing for Development to be held in July 2015 and the post-2015 development agenda negotiations. The Inter-agency Consultative Group on Small Island Developing States had been revitalized to play a role in monitoring and fostering partnerships among its members.

9. As part of the process of ensuring implementation of pledges and commitments through partnerships for small island developing States, as called for in the Samoa Pathway, 40 Member States — representing the three regions with small island developing States and the European Union as a whole — had submitted their views to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs through a survey circulated to Permanent Missions. As a result of those consultations, an informal draft note by the Secretariat for a small island developing States partnership framework had been prepared and posted on the Small Island Developing States Action Platform, the Department's website on the follow-up to the Pathway. The Department looked forward to receiving further views on the recommendations set out in the draft note. The Small Island Developing States Action Platform also hosted the related partnership platform, which provided updates on over 300 partnerships announced at the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, as well as encouraging new ones.

10. In the Samoa Pathway, Member States had requested a review of the United Nations system support for small island developing States. The initial findings of the Joint Inspection Unit concerning that review would be provided in the report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, while the full findings would be issued as an addendum to that report later in the seventieth session of the General Assembly. Prior to the release of the more comprehensive report, the high-level political forum on sustainable development, to be held in July 2015, would provide an important opportunity to discuss how to maintain the momentum needed to implement the Samoa Pathway.

Coordination, programme and other questions (*continued*)

(c) Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (*continued*) (E/2015/L.11)

Draft resolution E/2015/L.11: Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

11. **The President** said that he had submitted the draft resolution in his capacity as Vice-President on the basis of informal consultations.

12. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Council) said that in operative paragraph 6, the word "Recognizing" should be changed to read "Recognizes". In operative paragraphs 7 and 14, the word "Requests" should be replaced with the words "Calls upon". Lastly, in operative paragraph 14 (i), the words "Ensuring the" should be deleted; the new sentence would begin with the word "Tracking".

13. **Mr. Holtz** (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States, said that the States members of the European Union were pleased to join the consensus on the draft resolution and understood that the oral amendments to the text were necessary in order to respect the United Nations budgetary process and the role of the Fifth Committee

in that regard. The European Union was committed to the full and effective implementation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women; the last-minute amendments did not in any way alter the desire of the States Members of the United Nations to see the System-wide Action Plan implemented, nor the requirement and responsibility of the United Nations system to do so. Lastly, there was a continued need for increased clarity regarding budgetary implications during future negotiation processes in order to enable Member States to make informed decisions in a timely matter.

14. **Mr.** Junichi **Sumi** (Japan), co-facilitator of negotiations on the draft resolution, said he was grateful to Member States for their active participation in negotiations. The new language introduced would prevent the draft resolution from giving rise to a request for programme budget implications. He trusted that the United Nations system would continue with its excellent work in implementing the System-wide Action Plan.

15. **The President** said that the draft resolution, as orally amended, contained no programme budget implications.

16. *Draft resolution E/2015/L.11, as orally amended, was adopted.*

Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(j) Women and development (*continued*) (E/2015/27)

Action on recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fifty-ninth session (E/2015/27)

Draft resolution I: Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

17. **The President** invited the Council to take action on the draft resolution entitled "Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women", contained in chapter I, section A, of the report. The draft resolution had been adopted by the Commission by a recorded vote of 27 to 2, with 13 abstentions. He understood that a recorded vote in the Council had been requested on the draft resolution.

18. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Burkina Faso, China, Guatemala, India, Kuwait, Mauritania, Mauritius, Nepal, Russian Federation, South Africa, Sudan, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

Against:

Australia and United States of America.

Abstaining:

Albania, Austria, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Italy, Japan, Pakistan, Portugal, Republic of Korea, San Marino, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

19. *The draft resolution was adopted by 16 votes to 2, with 20 abstentions.*

Draft decision: Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fifty-ninth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the sixtieth session of the Commission

20. **The President** invited the Council to take action on the draft decision entitled "Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fifty-ninth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the sixtieth session of the Commission", contained in chapter I, section B, of the report.

21. *The draft decision was adopted.*

The meeting rose at 3.45 p.m.